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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture
to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views
and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXVII, No. 41

Section 1

May 27, 1940.

WAR THREATENS
FURTHER CUT OF
FARM MARKETS

"The economic effect of the war in Europe and the closing of vital markets to the agricultural surplus producing countries are commencing to have a decided effect on prices for grain, livestock products and many other foodstuffs," says the New York Times of May 27. "Markets which took about 400,000,000 bushels of wheat, corn, rye oats and barley, in addition to vast quantities of flaxseed, soybeans and other commodities, have been lost since war started early last September and, should the conflict spread to the Mediterranean, the outlook for surplus products would be further curtailed, according to experts.....With international trade in a chaotic condition, many grain traders believe that even a vague rumor that peace was possible in Europe would be the signal for an upturn in grain prices, while a further spreading of the war would have a most depressing effect....."

BOYKIN URGES
BUYING LARD,
COTTON SEED OIL

"Stabilization of the price of hog lard and cottonseed oil through purchase by the FSCC of the entire lard stocks of the country was urged Sunday by Representative Boykin (Dem., Ala.) in an open letter addressed to Secretary Wallace," says the New York Journal of Commerce for May 27. "Mr. Boykin.....declared that at current prices the entire lard stocks of 272,000,000 pounds could be acquired for a sum less than \$15,000,000....."

SENATE GROUP OK'S
\$500,000,000 FOR
FARM LOANS

"A \$500,000,000 increase in funds for government loans on major crops -- intended to act as a 'cushion' against possible price declines due to the European war -- was approved Friday by the Senate subcommittee in banking. Carl B. Robbins, president of the Commodity Credit Corporation, which underwrites these price-supporting loans, had just testified that money available for loans had been reduced to about \$19,000,000. The additional \$500,000,000 for loans on new crops of cotton, wheat, corn, tobacco and other export crops was a necessity, he said."

May 27, 1940.

Soy Beans
Change Indiana
Farm Picture

"On Indiana farms this year, 3,854,000 acres will be devoted to corn, 1,540,000 acres will be devoted to wheat and 1,652,000 will be devoted to soybeans," says Feedstuffs for May 18. "This marks an agricultural revolution, for corn and wheat have been the principal crops since the beginning of Hoosier farming. There are many reasons for the change. Soybeans fit into the AAA program better than wheat and, when grown for hay, are not considered a soil-depleting crop.....It is noted that one Indianapolis oleomargarine company which formerly used coconut oil finds soybean oil satisfactory and thus provides an additional market for the product. In a few years they have developed from an experimental crop to second place in Indiana."

Corn Hulls and
Coal May Abate
Smoke Nuisance

"The possible solution of the smoke problem in cities is seen in recent experiments in St. Louis in which briquets made of fine waste coal mixed with hulls of corn were burned in contrast to raw coal," says the Dallas News of May 20. "The longer the briquets burn, the fainter the smoke becomes.....This is because the pulverized hulls of corn kernels that are mixed with the coal dust act as an insulator, preventing the immediate combustion of the volatile materials in the coal....."

Resistance
To Disease Can
Be Transmitted

Discussing genetic resistance to disease in poultry, in the Country Gentleman for June, Dr. J. Holmes Martin, director, U. S. Regional Poultry Laboratory, East Lansing, Michigan, says in part: ".....It has been proved that individuals in a flock which survive an epidemic do so because of an inherent resistance to the disease. And this resistance can be transmitted to the offspring. Work at several of the state experiment stations and by the Department of Agriculture at the Agricultural Research Center and at the Regional Poultry Laboratory indicates that genetic resistance to the fowl paralysis complex exists in many of our strains of poultry....."

Dr. Carver Finds
New Uses For
Sweet Potatoes

Dr. George Washington Carver of Tuskegee Institute, in a recent letter to the Montgomery Advertiser, describes new uses for the sweet potato and with the letter he sent some dried sweet potato chips, together with some sweet potato flour and some sweet potato meal. In his letter he said: "These products were made in less than a day's time, so you can see how easily the sweet potato is dried and some of the interesting products that can be made from it.....I believe that the sweet potato flour, meal granules, etc., could be made an outstanding commercial venture, with the proper advertising and demonstrating....."

May 27, 1940.

China Rivals
U.S. in Crop
Production

"We are likely to think of China as so torn by war that it is out of the commercial agricultural field," says the *Rural New Yorker* for May 18. "Yet Fred J. Rossiter, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, who spent more than ten years in the Orient, says that China leads all countries in the production of rice, millet and soy beans, sometimes raises as much wheat and tobacco as the United States, and ranks next to the United States and India in the production of cotton. The cultivated area of China is about half that of the United States, yet they feed their population, which is three and one half times that of the United States, by intensive cultivation."

Nutritional
Requirements
of Plant Roots

"Uses of both 'practical' and 'pure' scientific value have been found for plant roots and other tissue cultures, grown detached from the original parent stock and kept going for long periods in nutrient fluids, according to Dr. Philip R. White of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Princeton, New Jersey...One, of considerable immediate importance, is the employment of excised roots as living culture media for mosaic diseases of plants...In his own experiments, Doctor White reported, he has learned some valuable facts about the nutritional requirements of roots, especially about their use of mineral salts and vitamins..."
(*Science News Letter*, May 25.)

Small Grain Hybrids
are Found Impractical

"It seems that the first generation hybrid crosses in small grains -- the equivalent of our hybrid seed corn -- can never be produced on a large scale," reports A. T. Thompson in *Wallaces' Farmer* for May 18. "The big trouble between corn and small grain is the natural tendency for small grain to 'marry' itself. Each flower in a head uses its own pollen to make a kernel. The little hood of green glumes that surrounds it does not open far enough to let any pollen in from the outside, not even from another flower on the same plant.

"This self-polluting tendency makes it necessary to cross each grain kernel by hand...According to Mr. H. C. Murphy, U. S. Department of Agriculture plant breeder at the Iowa Experiment Station at Ames, even an experienced man probably could not average more than 150 single kernel crosses per day."

New Onion
Topper-Grader
Cuts Labor Cost

A Michigan firm is manufacturing a new onion topper-grader that takes care of 600 bushels of onions in a ten-hour day, topping, grading and extra cleaning them, according to a story in the *Market Growers' Journal* for May 15. Three men operate the machine, and the *Journal* states that through use of the grader harvesting costs are cut approximately in half.

May 27, 1940.

Jap Beetle
Quarantine
Modified

The Department of Agriculture Saturday announced the removal, May 27, 1940, of all restrictions under the Japanese beetle quarantine regulations on the interstate movement of fruits and vegetables, except by refrigerator car and motor truck from the areas of heavy beetle flight. The Department will discontinue, temporarily at least, much of its inspection at highway stations of passenger vehicles that may be carrying fruits and vegetables in small lots. It will continue to require certificates of freedom from beetles for all refrigerator car and motor truck shipments of fruits and vegetables moving out from the areas of heavy beetle flight. (Press Release)

Smith Asks
Programs to
Aid Farm Needy

"Rural conservation and rehousing programs to give part or full-time employment to the needy farm people were suggested to the Senate Civil Liberties Committee by Raymond C. Smith, of the Department of Agriculture," says the New York Times for May 25. "'One of the greatest needs of the nation is to bridge the gap between the man on the land with inadequate income or no job at all and the conservation job that has to be done,' Mr. Smith said. Dr. Carl C. Taylor, chief of the Department division of farm population, and rural welfare, advocated an increase in the number of family-sized farms."

Two Oregon
Counties to
Get Food Stamp

Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace Friday announced that the Food Stamp Plan for distributing surplus agricultural commodities will be extended to Clackamas and Marion Counties, Oregon. These two counties adjoin Multnomah County, and the city of Portland, Oregon, in which the Stamp Plan is already in operation, and they will be administered as part of the expanded Portland area. (Press Release)

More Quick
Frozen Foods
Consumed

"There has been a rapid growth in the use of frozen fruits, vegetables, and meats during recent years despite the fact that these foods were introduced during a low income period when purchasing power was below normal, according to Harry Carlton, special market investigator with the University of Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station," reports the Progressive Farmer for June.

The consumption is increasing from 50 to 60 percent annually. In 1938 the quick frozen foods consumed in million pounds were fruits, 40; vegetables, 150; sea foods, 45; poultry, 10; and other meats, 5; making a total of 250 as compared to a total of 145 for 1937. The bulk of these sales are now going to families, whereas a few years ago they were made to hotels and restaurants almost exclusively. There are now over 12,000 retail stores handling frozen foods in the United States.

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May 28, 1940.

BRITAIN MAY
STOP BUYING
U.S. COTTON

"United States cotton producers Monday joined the producers of tobacco and fruits when the British Board of Trade announced that raw cotton, linters, waste and yarns and threads, made wholly of cotton, would be subjected to import licensing," says the New York Times for May 28.

"The order, which probably means the virtual end, for the present at least, of purchases of United States cotton by Great Britain, was made because imports of United States cotton have been very heavy.

Exports to Britain of cotton from the United States from August, 1939 to the middle of May have totaled 1,900,000 bales, a figure far in excess of the average of recent years...Now, according to the Board of Trade, the time has come for the United States to conserve shipping space and for Britain to conserve her precious foreign exchange..."

'REHABILITATION
FOR FARM NEEDY
ONLY SOLUTION'

"Secretary Wallace told the Senate Appropriations Committee on the Emergency Relief Appropriation bill Monday that he believed the only 'humane, conservative and economic' solution to the problem of needy and handicapped farm people is Government rehabilitation," says the Washington Times-Herald for May 28. "The other Government alternative, he said, would be to 'stand idly by while these people lose their last foothold on the land and become a relief burden which may be with us for many years.' He said this course 'obviously would prove extremely costly, both in money and in the morale of these uprooted families!'"

EXTENSION OF
FARM MARKET
PACTS FAVORED

"Legislation by Senator Gillette of Iowa to extend the operation of agricultural marketing agreements on all agricultural, dairy and horticultural products was reported favorably Monday by the Senate Agriculture Committee," says the New York Times for May 28.

"Only seven types of products are now covered by the Marketing Agreement Act. The only exception made by the extension was that it should apply, in the case of apples, only to those grown in Washington, Oregon and Idaho."

May 28, 1940.

Insect Traps
on Airplanes

Rural New Yorker for May 18 reports on experiments made with insect traps on airplanes. These traps, opened and closed as desired, scooped the insects out of the air and deposited them in bags. In flights over Louisiana, cotton boll moths were found 2,000 feet high; spotted cucumber beetles, 3,000 feet; and mosquitoes at 5,000 feet -- nearly a mile. These insects were blown to these heights unwillingly by the wind, the experimenters conclude.

Tenant Also
Problem in
Corn Belt

"Waves of change are moving over the Corn Belt," says Harry R. O'Brien in the Country Gentleman for June. "They are reshaping a large part of its farming, altering the size of farms and causing revisions in farming practices... The biggest factor in this change is power farming...The way in which the Corn Belt has switched to the tractor...is equal to any of the machine revolutions of history...It was inevitable that, once there were tools for power farming, those who could should seek more land to operate. A new factor came along to speed up this tendency to larger farm units. This was the AAA, offering to pay farmers if they would agree to grow less corn, wheat and oats. So, many a farmer began to ask himself, if it were profitable not to grow so much corn on 100 acres, how would he come out with 200 acres or a section? One farmer told how he had more than doubled his acreage, handled the larger amount with less trouble and much less help than the old way of handling the smaller..."

A second change that logically follows is that Corn Belt farms are getting larger...City men, business men are buying farms, putting them together in larger acreages; and what happens to the tenants is another story. Two contrasting facts stand out. One is that the farm tenant who is a proprietor is bettering his station. The other is that the real problem facing the Corn Belt is the landless man..."

Cotton Stamps
are 'Exceeding
Expectations'

"At Memphis, Tennessee, while cotton brokers, processors and growers joined in the pageantry of the Memphis Cotton Carnival, the first test of the cotton stamp plan was 'exceeding expectations,'" says Business Week for May 25. "In the first week of operation (May 7-15), 4,200 relief clients in Memphis and Shelby County purchased \$16,743 worth of green 'cotton order' stamps and were given free a similar valuation in brown surplus stamps. The result was a lively buying spree on cotton products in stores and shops, which offset to a degree the business lethargy in the wake of the homage to King Cotton. Merchants...reported that the bulk of the stamps went for real necessity items such as work shirts, pillow cases and sheets, etc..."

May 28, 1940.

Committee Extends Scope of Joad Probe "It is encouraging to hear that the LaFollette Committee is extending the scope of its researches into the problem of migratory farm labor," says the New Republic for May 13. "A final series of hearings in Washington is taking up the national implication of the facts unearthed in California. As Senator LaFollette says, 'Over one-third of the persons gainfully employed in American Agriculture, according to the 1930 census, were either ordinary wage workers or share-croppers...Only a small percentage were in California.'

"John Steinbeck's 'The Grapes of Wrath' has been cruelly overworked as a parallel to the actual conditions on which it is based; but we can't refrain from giving it one more fling. The LaFollette Committee, it strikes us, is doing the most careful and complete job of book reviewing that has ever been done. Starting at the book's end -- the effect in California -- the committee is now proceeding to its beginning and beyond -- to the cause that lies in the Dust Bowl and the Deep South and in every state where the farm worker has felt the bite of an agricultural situation he never made and is powerless to circumvent. And -- something our literary editor tells us cannot be said for every book review -- the documentation has been unimpeachable."

Germany Wants Free Trade', says Industrial Head In an article, "Germany And World Trade After the War" in the Atlantic Monthly for June, Dr. Georg von Schnitzler, German industrialist and member of the Board of I. G. Farbenindustrie, says that Germany would like nothing more than free trade and cooperation in a peaceful world. Dr. von Schnitzler says that "...Germany has been forced against her wish, by the press of circumstances for the development of which she should not be held responsible, to adopt forms of commerce which she is readily prepared to revise after the necessary clarification of political and economic conditions and after the restoration of normal relations..."

Coati Mondi Invades California "California apparently has a new predatory animal to keep company with the coyote, the weasel and the skunk," says the California Cultivator for May 18.

"It is known as the coati mondi....it had not been reported in California up to this time. The threatened invasions of the predator is announced by the museum of vertebrate zoology of the University of California, where one specimen was submitted by J. R. Wallace, naturalist in the State Division of Fish and Game, San Francisco. It was taken near the (Mexican) border in Imperial County.

"The coati mondi is about the size of a raccoon, but has a longer body, shorter legs and a longer tail. It can live on either fruit or flesh and this accounts for its wide distribution...."

May 28, 1940.

Cite Value of
Traps in Control
of Jap Beetle

Reporting on experiments in the value of traps in Japanese Beetle control, George S. Langford, S.L. Crosthwait and F. B. Whittington, of the University of Maryland, cite the following results in the *Journal of Economic Entomology*:

"Data collected in a large scale trapping demonstration in Maryland show that 5,338 traps on 6,749 acres of land caught approximately thirty percent of the beetles produced in the area. Results obtained on individual farms indicate that a much higher efficiency may be expected if one trap to the acre is used and the trap is operated efficiently...It was impossible to check accurately the value of traps in protecting crops, but both field observations and opinions of farmers using traps indicate that traps can be profitably used to lessen crop losses.

"The results obtained also show that traps are not efficient to the extent of fully protecting crops from Japanese beetle damage but there is every indication that they have a place in a control program, not only as a supplementary control measure, but under certain conditions, as a direct measure."

AAA Helping
Farmers Adjust
To War Effects

The AAA farm program is playing an increasingly important part in maintaining the welfare of American agriculture in the face of the adjustments accompanying the European war, says Administrator R. M. Evans in the 1938-39 annual report of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration issued Monday. Looking ahead to the conclusion of the War, the Administrator declares in the report that with the aid of the AAA farm program "farmers are prepared better than ever before for the difficult problems of adjustment that must inevitably follow war abroad."

Farmers number 5,248,796, farming three-fourths of the Nation's cropland, were cooperating in the AAA farm program at the beginning of the fiscal year 1938-39, according to the report. This was 40 percent more than the number of farmers who participated the preceding year. By the end of the period covered by the report, nearly 6 million farmers had signed up for the 1939 program. (Press Release).

'Migrant Farm
Labor has been
Safety Valve'

"Nels Anderson, director of WPA labor relations, told the sixty-seventh annual National Conference on Social Work, meeting in Grand Rapids Monday, that the nation cannot support a jobless army of migrants numbering somewhere between 500,000 and 1,000,000 idle workers," says the New York Journal of Commerce for May 28.

"Thomas J. Woofter, Jr., economic advisor to the Farm Security Administrator, said that migration, inspired by the hope of economic security, has been a traditional safety valve in America. He advised against measures to curb it abruptly..."

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May 29, 1940.

COTTON HIT AS BELGIUM QUILTS "Losses of \$1.75 to \$2.45 per bale were registered early Tuesday in New York cotton futures on news of capitulation of the Belgian army and announcement that, beginning May 30, no individual import licenses will be required by the British Board of Trade on all shipments of cotton other than those from the British and French empires and Egypt," says the New York Journal of Commerce for May 29. "Later the market recovered from the lows and closed the day with losses of 6 to 7 points on July contracts and 15 to 19 points on new crop positions."

STOCK EXCHANGE SEAT SELLS AT LOWEST PRICE FOR PAST 25 YEARS

An Associated Press story from New York dated May 28 reports that the lowest price in 25 years for a New York Stock Exchange seat was recorded when arrangements were made for the sale of a membership at \$42,000, down \$1,000 from the previous sale. In 1915, before the World War bull market began, a seat sold as low as \$38,000.

WHEAT FALLS AFTER BELGIANS GIVE UP BUT MARKET RALLIES

From Chicago, the Associated Press reports that wheat prices fell sharply on May 29 with the news of the Belgian King's surrender, July reaching \$1 and September \$0-3/4, within two and a half cents of the fixed minimum. Later, the market rallied and practically all the losses were regained.

COUNTY AGENTS AID IN PICKING GOOD FARM LANDS

County Land Use Planning associations in Oregon are moving to alleviate one phase of the migrant problem, the BAE reports. In Clatsop County signs urging agricultural home seekers to consult the local county agricultural agent for reliable information regarding available land already have appeared along the highways. The signs were put up when the County Land Use Planning Committee discovered that a large number of uninformed migrants had been settling on lands unsuited to farming. The rapid influx of settlers from North and South Dakota, Montana and other drought areas had made the situation serious, and the committee sought ways to guide the settlement of newcomers to suitable locations. Land Use Planning committees in adjacent counties are recommending similar action, BAE officials said. (Press Release.)

May 29, 1940.

Exports Drop
to Scandanavia
and Dutch

"A decline of \$27,000,000 in exports during April, with the heaviest decrease in Scandinavian and Dutch trade, was shown in a Commerce Department report Monday," says the Washington Post for May 28. "...Trade with the Scandinavian nations fell from more than \$19,000,000 in March to less than \$4,000,000 in April, while exports to the Low Countries dropped \$3,000,000. Hardest hit in the export decline were farm commodities, with cotton shipments down to \$21,000,000 from the January peak of \$60,000,000, and decreases registered also in wheat, tobacco, flour, oats, dried fruit and vegetables..."

17-year Cicadas
Will Emerge
Soon in East

"Billions of seventeen-year-old cicadas, longest-lived of all insects, will be emerging from the earth soon over the greater part of the country between the Mississippi and the Atlantic Coast," according to the New York Times recently. "They have lived underground for seventeen years, sucking juices from tree roots. Those emerging now will mate, produce their eggs and die, and the tiny grubs that hatch from the eggs later in the summer will dig into the earth again to repeat the same strange, hidden life cycle. The insects are practically harmless to the vegetation, since their mouth parts are so feebly developed that they cannot feed. The adults live on food stored in their bodies, mostly in the form of fat, during their month or so of above-ground life."

Plastics With
Grain Placed in
Lab Cornerstones

"Transparent, plastic bricks, in which were imbedded various dehydrated objects such as heads of wheat, ears of corn, insects, etc., were placed in the cornerstones of the Regional Laboratories of the U. S. Department of Agriculture which have been laid recently at Wyndmoor, (Phila.), Pa.; Albany, Calif.; New Orleans, La.; and Peoria, Ill. These blocks are beautifully clear and are expected to be definitely permanent. The material is acrylic resin, a synthetic product, and the method of imbedding was developed by Charles E. Sando of the U. S. Department of Agriculture...." (Market Growers Journal, May 15.)

Vampire Bats
Carry Rabies
to Livestock

"Vampire bats have been convicted as carriers of a dangerous form of rabies causing paralysis in livestock, in researches reported by two Venezuelan scientists, Doctors Juan Iturbe and P. Gallo," says Science News Letter for May 25. "The affected animals usually lose the use of their hind legs...Blood-drinking bats carry the virus from animal to animal, but do not themselves develop symptoms of the malady...Doctors Iturbe and Gallo have succeeded in preparing a preventative vaccine, which has shown encouraging results...They are now at work on a vaccine prepared by another method, from which they hope to obtain better results."

May 29, 1940.

N.Y. Must Have Adequate Food Market--Crow

William C. Crow, of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, writing on "The New York Terminal Situation" in The Blue Anchor for May, says: "New York City receives about one carload of fruits and vegetables a minute for the daylight time of every working day in the year. During the twelve-month period ending April 30, the equivalent of 202,000 carloads (excluding bananas) was brought in from forty-two states and eighteen foreign countries...California, Florida and New York each supplied about one-fifth of the city's total supply. These three states and New Jersey furnished two out of every three carloads entering the city..."

"The New York market in every sense is of national importance... Conditions in this market are a very real concern not only of wholesalers and jobbers in that market but also of thousands of growers throughout the country, millions of consumers in the New York area, railroads, trucking companies, retailers and the general public. All these elements have a large stake in this market and a definite interest in its efficient operation. With so many groups involved, it is not difficult to see why no one group alone has been able to put through any satisfactory solution to the present unsatisfactory market conditions...The interests of all these groups demand that cooperative action be taken to plan and bring into existence an adequate modern market for this, the world's largest city..."

Chile Aids Its Tenant Farmers With New Crops

The New York Times of May 28 says that the Chilean Government's campaign for bettering the lot of the thousands of tenant farmers, or "inquilinos," in that country is having a "marked success." One year ago an Institute of Rural Information was set up with limited funds and a staff of five to see what could be done for the betterment of the "inquilinos." This staff first published a primer to teach cleanliness, farming and a sense of social responsibility.

"Despite criticism for publishing a book for people who scarcely can read," says the Times, "the bright, paper-covered 'Book of the Chilean Cowboy' turned out to be a great success...It is full of quaintly amusing stories and attractive illustrations which, nevertheless, instruct and advise. It promised seeds and help to those who would ask and was distributed with the help of the national police force...So great was the interest shown...that two similar volumes followed...The Institute has found new ways for helping the 'inquilinos': fostering goat-raising and bee-keeping, distributing silk-worms and mulberry trees in the north of the country where the climate is hot...Cooperatives similar to those in United States farming communities have been organized to market the produce of the 'inquilinos.'"

Chamiza Proving
Fine Plant for
Western Range

The New Mexico Stockman for May tells of the growing use of chamiza; a gray, nondescript desert weed of the Southwest. According to the Stockman, chamiza is "one of those story book plants. It will grow anywhere. It is more drought-resistant than any other plant yet discovered. It has so high a feed value that it is claimed that an acre of chamiza is the equal of ten acres of range grass. It doesn't require cultivation, irrigation or attention. It costs practically nothing to plant."

C. P. Wilson, of New Mexico State College, is responsible for the development and popularization of chamiza. Now ranges in New Mexico, Texas and Colorado are being seeded with the plant, "and, on ranges where it grows," says the Stockman, "cattlemen are no longer dreading, as they used to dread, the years when the rainfall is so scanty as to provide no feed."

Orange Worm

Treated With

Cryolite Dust

"Orange worms have become an important problem during the past few years in many orange-producing sections of California," says the California Cultivator for May 18.

"...The orange tortrix is thought by authorities to be a native species and reports of damage in oranges in California were made as early as 1894...Infestations of orange worms are sporadic and difficult to predict, which has resulted in many growers treating their groves as a crop insurance, where the groves have had a worm history... Dr. A. M. Boyce, of the Citrus Experiment Station, Riverside, has worked out the control program for orange worms. The recommended treatment consists of a cryolite dust applied before the young oranges become large enough to be scarred and before the worms have damaged any mature oranges on the tree, causing a fruit-drop to occur..."

According to the
Weekly Weather
and Crop Bulletin

The continuation of cool weather over the interior valleys and much of the South retarded germination and growth of spring-planted crops, especially those of the warm-weather variety...The substantial amount of moisture received from Oklahoma southward was decidedly beneficial. Showers were helpful also in much of the Rocky Mountain area and in the Southeast, although considerable portions of the latter area are still too dry for good growth.

The areas now most needing rain include South Dakota, Nebraska, and the eastern Great Basin...Small grains -- Reports indicate continued favorable development of small-grain crops, especially winter wheat, in the principal-producing sections east of the Mississippi River...Conditions continued favorable in the Spring Wheat Belt, except South Dakota and Nebraska where moisture is needed...

Corn -- Because of frequent rains corn planting continued to make slow progress in the eastern Ohio Valley, middle Atlantic area, and the Northeast...

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May 31, 1940.

SENATE ACTION

ON FARM

MONEY BILL

"The Senate agreed Thursday to a \$60,000,000 increase in rural electrification funds voted by the House in the annual farm appropriation, but it refused to accept numerous other House changes in the billion-dollar measure," says the Washington Post for May 31. "Still in dispute between the two chambers were the formula for paying \$212,000,000 of 'parity' benefits to farmers; restrictions of \$50,000,000 in farm tenancy loans, and smaller items involving about \$5,000,000."

BRITAIN TO

TAKE SUGAR

FROM EMPIRE

"From Empire sources -- Australia, the Union of South Africa, British West Indies, Mauritius and Fiji -- Great Britain will purchase the entire sugar exports from new crops, the undersecretary of the Food Ministry, R. J. G. Boothby, told the House of Commons Wednesday," says the New York Journal of Commerce for May 31. "The total purchase which amounts to 1,750,000 tons provides for 1,225,000 tons for the United Kingdom and the balance for Canada and New Zealand."

\$60,000,000

HOSPITAL BILL

PASSED

"The Senate Thursday passed legislation to set up a six-year \$60,000,000 hospital construction program in rural and 'economically depressed' areas," says the Washington Post for May 31. "The bill would authorize six annual appropriations of \$10,000,000, starting with the fiscal year 1941, for building and enlargement of hospitals under supervision of the Public Health Service and Federal Works Agency."

FOOD EXPORTS

DECLINE 7%

FROM APRIL '39

"United States export trade in food products in April declined seven percent from April, 1939, chiefly due to a drop in wheat exports, but the trade was marked by an increase in shipments of canned food products to the United Kingdom despite the imposition of import restrictions, the Commerce Department announced Thursday," says the New York Times of May 31.

Rabbits Evade
Epidemic by
Dying Alone

"In Australia, the plague of rabbits has been extremely damaging," says the Baltimore Sun for May 28. "Some time ago the Australian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research planned to attack this plague by a rabbit disease, caused by an invisible virus not unlike the viruses of smallpox, mumps and infantile paralysis. Laboratory tests showed the disease quickly fatal to any infected rabbit... The virus (was introduced) into a test area containing thirty-three rabbit warrens and about 2,000 rabbits. Many rabbits caught the disease and died, but the epidemic failed to spread... The biologists found that every infected rabbit had left the warren the instant that he began to feel ill, and went off alone to die. Thus the deadly virus got almost no chance to spread and the epidemic did not last..."

Few Breeders
Working on 15/16
Inch Cotton

E. C. Westbrook, of the Agricultural Extension Service, Athens, Georgia, discusses the one-variety cotton plan in Better Crops for May. He says: "For the period 1932-1939 there was a large increase in the production of cotton which has a staple length of 1 inch to 1-3/32 inches. There was also a very marked reduction in the production of cotton with 7/8 and 29/32-inch staple. In most parts of the Cotton Belt there appears to be no good reason for growing cotton with a staple shorter than 15/16 inch. Most manufacturers who are using cotton shorter than that will tell you that the only reason for using it is because they can buy it cheaper than they can buy longer cotton..."

"One thing which is interesting to note is that there has been very little change over a period of years in the production of 15/16-inch cotton. Apparently there are not many breeders working on cottons of that staple length, despite the fact that there is a good demand for cotton of that length..."

Kill Moles
With Carbon
Monoxide Gas

Garden Digest for June suggests an ingenious method for ridding land of moles by using carbon monoxide gas. A hose is attached to the exhaust pipe of an automobile and the free end is inserted in a mole burrow, with a damp cloth tightly packed in around the hose to concentrate the exhaust fumes in the hole. Then the engine is started, and the land is permeated with carbon monoxide.

In reporting on experiments with this method, the Digest reporter tells the results: "Earthworms crawled hastily out of the soil, writhed in agony and expired. Centipedes, beetles, sow-bugs, ants etc. scampered hastily off in all directions. The moles vanished..."

Louisiana
Experiments
With Paprika

"Imports of paprika, a crop of central Europe, have been shut off by the war," says Forbes (Magazine) for June 1. "Last month, however, the U. S. Department of Agriculture induced 350 Louisiana farmers to start growing it on an experimental basis. The potential market is evidenced by last year's imports: 6,000,000 pounds."

Food Prices
Not Rising
Despite War

"The war in Europe is not raising American food prices a single penny and complaints of profiteering are unfounded, according to Max Mencher, secretary of the New York City Department of Markets," says the New York Times of May 31. "'For the first time in history during a world conflagration the general level of food prices is lower than it has been in times of peace,' Mr. Mencher said Thursday. 'This is fantastic to those who know what war generally does to food prices.'

"...As a bulwark against profiteering the Department of Markets has already appointed to anti-profiteering committees representatives of producers, wholesalers and retailers in groceries, meats and poultry, butter and eggs..."

Improved Crop
Prospects In
Corn Belt

"Greatly improved crop prospects are in view because of recent favorable weather, the Corn Belt farm dailies said Thursday in their bimonthly review of the agricultural situation," says the New York Times of May 31. "Spring opened late and dry in many of the more important agricultural areas, the review said, but recent rains have brought the moisture situation to about normal in the Corn Belt States. Few sections are classed as 'too dry', and in the Western States grass is making a fine showing."

Agricultural
Society For The
Americas Formed

An American Society of Agricultural Sciences which will represent all 21 of the American republics has been organized, the Department announced Thursday. The Society was formed in response to a recommendation of the Eighth American Scientific Congress which met in Washington the third week of May. The Society was organized by Scientific Congress delegates from 12 countries.

The objects of the Society are: To recognize agriculture as a basic industry of the Americas -- a close tie between the American republics; to advance scientific agriculture in the republics through individual and collective effort; to provide a central organization for coordination of the agricultural sciences; to hold meetings, issue publications, and otherwise disseminate agricultural information; to provide for exchange of research findings, ideas and experiences among members, and to promote friendship among workers in agricultural sciences in the American republics. (Press Release.)

More Pork
Products For
Relief Bought

Purchases of lard and pork products for domestic relief distribution reached a total of 88,600,000 pounds, with the buying recently of 32,000,000 pounds of lard and 15,000,000 pounds of salt pork, the Department announced Wednesday. Commodities bought are used by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation for distribution through the States to families on relief and for use in school lunch programs. Additional purchases of smoked pork products will be made within a few days on offers which are now being received at the FSCC. The current purchases are expected by officials of the Department to prove of assistance to hog producers in helping to improve market conditions. (Press Release.)

VanArtsdel Goes to Western Laboratory The appointment of W. B. VanArtsdel as Chief of the Engineering and Development Division of the Department's Western Regional Research Laboratory at Albany, Calif., was announced Wednesday by Dr. Henry G. Knight, Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering. As chief of the Division, Mr. VanArtsdel will head the engineering development of processes worked out in the Western Laboratory, and the study of industrial opportunities for expanding outlets for farm products. (Press Release.)

"Fresh" and Quick Frozen Food Products

Food Field Reporter says that it was told, by a "responsible Food and Drug Administration officer," that the use of the word "fresh" in labeling of quick frozen products, as well as canned goods, is "highly distasteful" to the FDA. Nevertheless, the Reporter says, at this time the FDA doesn't have evidence to prove, to its satisfaction, that the "fresh" designation would result in consumer deception.

Farm Prices Average Not Changed in May

The general level of farm commodity prices quoted on local markets throughout the country, at 98 percent of the 1910-14 level, was unchanged from April 15 to May 15, the Agricultural Marketing Service reported Thursday. Declines in grains, cotton and cottonseed, dairy products, and truck crops were offset by higher prices for fruit, meat animals, and poultry products. Average prices of commodities bought by farmers, at 123 percent of the pre-war average, were unchanged. Though the unit exchange value of farm products, at 80, was the same as a month earlier, it was 5 points higher than the May 1939 level. The index of prices paid, including interest and taxes, remained at 128. (Press Release.)

Progress in Agriculture Discussed

Estelle H. Ries, writing in Dynamic America for June on "The Revolution in Agriculture" says: "An agricultural revolution has been quietly getting under way... The Haber Bosch process gives to man unlimited command of two mighty forces -- explosives and fertilizer... Through it... fertilizers can be derived from the air... But the last century made other far reaching changes... The first of these was Liebig's discovery of the mineral basis of plant nutrition... This was followed by the discoveries which led to genetics... Next came... agrobiology, through which plant breeders can know the limits within which they can expand the yield of plants in relation to the unit of land surface... By planting seeds in tanks of chemicals, yields of potatoes, corn and other crops have been attained... The rapid development of the use of X-rays and the knowledge of genes and chromosomes foreshadow the time when the manufacturer will specify the physical or chemical property he desires in his raw materials, and the plant breeder will create a plant that has it...."

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVII, No. 45

Section 1

June 3, 1940.

U.S. TO AID N.Y.
IN 'MODEL PROBE'
OF MILK TRADE

"Saying it hopes the inquiry would become a 'model for similar undertakings elsewhere' the Justice Department announced yesterday that it was joining with New York City in an investigation of alleged restraints of trade in the metropolitan milk market," according to the Washington Post of June 3. "Cooperating in the inquiry will be Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia of New York and Thurman Arnold, chief of the department's anti-trust division. The announcement said such an investigation was 'particularly important at the present time when the European war may well result in skyrocketing food prices in this country.' Complaints have been received, the department said, that there was 'monopolistic control' of shipment of milk interstate into the New York metropolitan area. The inquiry will extend into New York state, Connecticut and other areas comprising the metropolitan milk shed, the department said."

According to the Baltimore Sun of June 3, Thomas H. McInnerney, president of the National Dairy Products Corporation, declared today that there was "no monopoly in milk" and that a projected Federal-City inquiry meant that the Government would be "frittering away both its time and ours."

RED CROSS
BUYS SURPLUS
FOOD OF U.S.

"A plan under which the American Red Cross will be able to buy from the Department of Agriculture a large amount of foodstuffs at half price for shipment to war refugees in France was announced here today by the two agencies," according to the New York Times for June 2. "The announcement was made as the relief organization reported that contributions to date in its \$20,000,000 war relief fund have reached \$5,410,983.

"The arrangement, which Secretary Wallace said would be continued as long as funds are available, will permit exportation on the first Red Cross 'mercy ship,' due to sail soon, of 5,881,000 pounds of wheat flour, 1,250,000 pounds of corn meal, 750,000 pounds of lard, 800,000 pounds of prunes and the same amount of raisins."

June 3, 1940.

Manganese
Held Necessary
in Citrus Soil

"Additional signs of manganese deficiency in southern California soils may have been uncovered by members of the staff of the University of California Citrus Experiment Station at Riverside," says the California Cultivator for May 18. "Responses to manganese treatment were obtained on lemon trees in the Santa Clara River Valley. In one orchard trees subject to premature decline were treated with manganese and improvement was noted within two weeks... (The experimenters) now believe that there may be an important relationship between premature decline of fruit trees and lack of available manganese in the soil."

Fire-Resistant
Paint Developed

"Recent experimental work at the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin, has resulted in the development of a fire-resistant paint for wood," says the Pacific Rural Press for May 18. "Of the many paints that have been prepared and tested, the most satisfactory ones have been linseed oil paints containing finely ground borax... Although these paints will not protect wood effectively against continuous exposure in high temperatures, they do afford considerable resistance to the spread of small fires. These paints are not satisfactory for exterior use because rain leaches out the water-soluble borax and the degree of fire resistance decreases with exposure...."

New Carotene
Extracting
Process

"A new process for extracting carotene, source of vitamin A, from alfalfa has been announced by three Michigan State College research workers," says Poultry Supply Dealer for June. "... Dried alfalfa meal, which preserves the high vitamin A content of green alfalfa, a leading source of beta-carotene, is utilized in the process... Carotene, chlorophyll and fatty materials are separated from the residual meal by a patented method of solvent extraction. The chlorophyll and fatty materials are removed in a large part from the extract by a treatment with barium hydroxide. Resultant carotene solution then is purified either into vitamin A crystals or a rich concentrate...."

Many Interested
in Apple Storage
Experiments

"There is considerable interest among growers in the experiments at Cornell with modified atmosphere storage of apples," according to the American Agriculturist for May 11. "It is indicated that a considerable number will attend the opening of storage chambers where apples have been held since last fall. It is expected that this storage method may considerably lengthen the season for high quality apples. Studies have been made allowing the apples to mature fully on the trees and then keeping them in storage much longer than the usual time. If the practical and cost aspects of the plan can be worked out, this may prove to be a great boon...."

June 3, 1940.

Hawaii Big
U.S. Citrus
Buyer

"Territory of Hawaii is an important market for California citrus fruits," says the California Citrograph for June. "The import record shows that 17,176,427 pounds (about 245,377 boxes) of oranges were unloaded at Honolulu in 1939. Grapefruit unloads were 1,614,099 pounds and lemons 1,657,881 pounds...This...places the Hawaiian Islands' per capita consumption of citrus fruits (about 50 pounds per capita) above that of most cities on the mainland..."

Poliomyelitis
Fails to Make
Seasonal Rise

"The occurrence of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) cases throughout the United States has been far below the median for this time of year for the past six weeks, according to officials of the U. S. Public Health Service," says the Washington Star recently. "Figures coming in from all over the country, it was said, gave cause for reassurance. Cases of poliomyelitis unusually become more frequent in the middle of May, but so far this year no such trend has been observed."

Baruch Urges
U.S. to Capture
S. Am. Markets

"Bernard M. Baruch, the former chairman of the War Industries Board, urged, in an interview with the Journal of Commerce over the week-end, that the United States embark at once on a program aimed at capturing and holding Latin American markets against prospective inroads by Germany. Mr. Baruch said, 'this country should resort to barter agreements, grant credits or even subsidize exporters, if necessary to capture the South American markets,'" according to the New York Journal of Commerce of June 3.

Record Wheat
Sale Made
to Britain

"Announcement that the Canadian Wheat Board has sold 50,000,000 bushels of cash wheat to the British Government had today only a minor effect on the price of that grain on the Board of Trade here," says the New York Times for June 2. "The sale, believed to be the largest single transaction in the long history of the trade, caused a rally of about 1 cent a bushel from the low point on wheat futures here, where the close was at gains of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ cent. Winnipeg was up 2 cents at one time, but finished below the top with gains of $1\frac{1}{4}$ cents. In addition to the business with Great Britain it is estimated that Canada sold 200,000 bushels of wheat to other countries."

Permanent
Protection
From Moths

"Wool can be permanently protected against moths and other insects by a new chemical treatment, according to a patent (No. 2,202,169) awarded to Paul Schlack of Berlin-Treptow, Germany," says the New York Times for June 2. "The process involves treating the wool with an alkylene oxide, imine or sulphide at a temperature above 104 degrees Fahrenheit. This alkylizes the amino groups present in the protein molecule from which wool is constructed. Thus, a permanent chemical bond between the moth-proofing agent and the wool is produced which withstands laundering and dry cleaning."

June 3, 1940.

Research in
Disease of
Orchard Workers

Skin reactions such as itching, irritation, and reddening, sometimes experienced by orchard workers handling phenothiazine sprays, are not due to local irritation by this insecticide, report Messrs. DeEds, Wilson, and Thomas, pharmacologists of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, in the Journal of the American Medical Association for May 25. These skin reactions, which have been variously diagnosed as sunburn, chemical burn, and dermatitis, are probably due to a systemic reaction of the individual to sunlight traceable to photosensitization (sensitivity to light) resulting from oxidation of the absorbed phenothiazine, according to the pharmacologists. They suggest these preventive measures: wearing a mask to prevent absorption of the phenothiazine; clothing the upper part of the body to minimize exposure to the sun; and covering exposed skin areas with a protective ointment such as zinc oxide.

Farmers Fight
Growing Rural
Traffic Accidents

"At the same time the rapid increases in rural areas have not only offset the gains made in cities but have advanced the national total of traffic accidents and deaths each year disproportionately..."

"More than 2,000,000 members of rural organizations -- The National Grange, the 4-H Clubs, and other farm groups -- have actively enlisted to fight in the war against rural accidents and have, in the case of the Grange, been campaigning continuously for sixteen years... Among traffic safety authorities it is axiomatic that traffic accidents constitute a local problem and respond most effectively to local remedial action. For this reason the several million farm folk fighting the war for accident reduction become a significant force...."

Farmer Quiz
on Doctor's
Fees

The Farmer Speaks, "a nationwide, farm-to-farm survey of the opinions of 6,000,000 farmers" conducted by Successful Farming, queries the farmers on the cost of medical attention in the June issue of that magazine.

The farmers were asked: "Would you go to the doctor more often if the doctor's charges were lower?" and the answer was:

	Yes	No
All farmers.....	53%	47%
Midwest farmers.....	57%	43%
Other farmers.....	51%	49%

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Section 1

June 4, 1940.

HOUSE PASSES
JONES FARM
CREDIT BILL

"The House passed unanimously Monday the Jones Farm Credit Bill, by which Federal Reserve Banks would be allowed to discount Federal Land Bank notes and would open what was termed 'additional avenue' for lower rates on agricultural loans," says the New York Times for June 4.

DAIRIES STUDY

PLAN TO END STATE
TRADE BARRIERS

"An immediate program for eradication of interstate trade barriers is now under consideration by major dairy interests of the country," says the New York Journal of Commerce for June 4. "President Roosevelt recently appointed a special subcommittee of the Interdepartmental Committee on Interstate Trade Barriers to inquire into the contribution of the Federal Government in the erection of such barriers, which now constitute a serious bottleneck in the distribution of the products of agriculture."

BRITAIN PEGS
2-LB-LOAF AT
6-3/4 CENTS

"The Ministry of Food announced Monday that the price of a two-pound loaf of bread would be pegged at four pence (6-3/4 cents) for the next three months," says a United Press dispatch from London dated June 3. "The decree also was issued forbidding wholesalers to accept unsold loaves from retailers, thus compelling the latter to carry smaller stocks and decrease waste."

EXPORTS TO
RUSSIA

RISE

New York Times of May 4.

"United States exports to Soviet Russia in the first seven months of the war have been 81 percent greater than in the equivalent period in 1938-39... according to Commerce Department figures," says the

WHOLESALE MEAT
PRICES FELL
OFF IN MAY

"Increased supplies led to the price decline, the institute said. Prices of lamb and the better grades of beef also declined somewhat."

"Wholesale prices of most cuts of fresh pork declined from 12 to 22 percent during May, the Institute of American Meat Packers reported Monday," says an Associated Press dispatch from Chicago dated June 3.

June 4, 1940

FSCC Buys
10,000,000
Lbs of Pork

"The Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation has announced the purchase of 10,000,000 pounds of smoked pork products for direct relief distribution," according to the Washington Post recently. "This brings the total purchases to approximately 100,000,000 pounds, including lard and salt pork, since last December."

Farm Labor
Conscripted
By Britain

"The British government has decided to conscript farm labor and launch a recruiting drive to enroll more thousands of women into the land army, Minister of Agriculture Robert Hudson announced tonight in a radio address," according to the Times-Herald for June 3. "Outlining the government's plans to increase agricultural production to feed the nation in war-time, he stated that no farm worker will be allowed to desert the soil in the future, and that experienced men who already had left to earn bigger wages in war factories would be brought back."

Galvin Sets
Spring Wheat
at 225,000,000

"The season's first semi-official estimate of the size of the 1940 United States spring wheat crop today forecast a production of approximately 225,000,000 bushels, with the exception of the 1938 harvest, the largest since 1932," says the Washington Post recently. "This estimate was made by C. M. Galvin, crop expert, who compiled a Nationwide Survey by James E. Bennett and Co. coupled with Galvin's revised estimate of 495,703,000 bushels of winter wheat, a total United States crop this season of approximately 721,000,000 bushels was predicted."

Farm Credit Fight
Threatens Low Rates

"With the hot fight between advocates of the rival Jones-Wheeler and Gillette farm credit bills threatening to block passage of either measure by the present session of Congress, some borrowers of Farm Credit Administration Funds are beginning to worry about the approach of June 30, when the present statute providing low interest rates on FCA loans expires," reports the Prairie Farmer of May 18. The Farmer continued that these rates -- $3\frac{1}{2}$ on Land Bank loans and 4 percent on Commissioner's loans -- were originally voted by Congress in 1935 as a one-year emergency measure and have been extended from year to year since then, the present extension period ending June 30. At that time, unless Congress acts in the meantime, the original 5 percent and 6 percent interest rates will be restored.

A.G.Black Nomination
Confirmed by Senate

The Congressional Record of May 31 reports that the Senate unanimously confirmed the nomination of Albert G. Black to be Governor of the Farm Credit Administration for the 6-year period beginning June 15, 1940.

June 4, 1940.

London "Economist" An editorial in the London "Economist" of May
Praised Stamp Plan 4 -- "Food Stamps in America" states: "So many plans for curing modern economic ills have been propounded in the United States that when one survives the discussion period and is actually put into force, it deserves attention on that ground alone. And when it succeeds in reconciling both agricultural and consumer interests, it becomes a phenomenon of more than domestic news value. Such is the food stamp plan, directed primarily towards farm surpluses arising from lack of domestic purchasing power rather than from contraction of world markets; and it aims at reducing them by the obvious -- but unusual -- method of increasing consumption of food by the poorest section of the population. Under the food stamp plan (rather than plowing up little pigs and crops) the surpluses are eaten up by relief families and the urban response to this policy of distribution has been as enthusiastic as it was negative in the policy of reducing production. For the producers, the increased sale of surplus commodities has made prices firmer; food trades have profited by a bigger volume of business and persons on relief have had $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ worth of food per meal instead of 5¢ worth. Though the plan is open to abuse, very few cases have been reported. While essentially a peace-time measure, adopted by a country suffering from abundance of food, it provides a country at war, possessing all the machinery of price fixing and food control, with a technique by which the policy of reducing food consumption in general could be combined with increased consumption for those already ill-nourished."

Shoe String Fungus Found in New Jersey "Oak trees on the farm of Adam Eisenbeil of Stockton, were found to be affected by shoe string fungus," says the Rural New Yorker for June 1. "The disease is rather rare in Jersey. It attacks the roots and grows up the trunk under the bark. Trees affected die quickly and the timber soon deteriorates. The disease spreads rapidly through the woodlot. The only known control is to destroy the fungus growth which appears on the ground above the roots in the nature of toad stools."

Virginia Producers Farm Without Using the Plow An Associated Press dispatch from Independence, Va., reports that southwest Virginia farmers are farming without plows to meet the problems growing out of erosion of steeply sloping land. "Ten land-owners in Virginia's western wedge are operating farms that are never touched by a plow," the story says. "Seventy-two others are following a plan by which plowing is confined to a few level acres. The purpose is to prove that cattle, sheep and horses can be produced profitably on good pasture and forage crops, including legume and grass silage, without supplementary grain feed. TVA-supplied phosphate, lime and other fertilizers are being used where needed as top dressing to restore the fertility of eroded and overworked land."

June 4, 1940.

War SwellsVolume of
Futures Trading

"Despite slackening speculative participation in commodity markets toward the end of the month, futures transactions in May were in the best volume since last December," a New York Journal of Commerce (June 4) compilation shows. "The German invasion of Holland and Belgium on May 9 touched off a wave of speculative liquidation which swelled volume to record proportions in most markets. As the German war machine pushed its way into Northern France, panicky selling developed, more than 100,000 contracts changing hands during the single week ending May 17."

New Uses of
Surplus Crops
to be Sought

In speaking of the work to be done by agricultural scientists in the new Regional Research Laboratories, Dr. Henry G. Knight, U. S. Department of Agriculture, said, "The most important research to be undertaken in connection with tobacco will be a program looking toward expanding the uses of nicotine. Nicotine is highly toxic to insect life and is useful both as a contact insecticide and stomach poison..." (U.P. Dispatch from Schenectady, N. Y. - June 3.)

Cows, Hogs
and Sheep
Eat Prunes

"Cows and hogs have some unusual food propositions put before them at times. One of the latest is the feeding of unsalable prunes, pits and all," says the Rural New Yorker for June 1. "California has at times a surplus of prunes and the station, to test their possible value to livestock, fed 30 tons of whole prunes to cattle, hogs and sheep in their herds. The animals liked them, and there were no unfavorable results. The sheep rejected most of the seeds although some were swallowed whole. Hogs cracked the pits, and thus consumed the entire prune. The cows in chewing their cuds rejected some of the pits, but many learned to crack and reswallow them. In total digestible nutrients the prunes were found to have a value of 85 percent that of barley."

Nylon Stockings
Big Success on
New Market

"Ten days after the May 15 debut of nylon stockings for women it seems safe to say they were an unqualified success. Big stores in New York, Chicago and San Francisco and points north and south, report crowds at hosiery departments reminiscent of the Christmas rush. In big cities, at least, the only curb on sales has been stocks on hand. Surprises in the early rush have been a large proportion of men buyers and a preference for the most expensive numbers...." (Business Week, May 25.)

Baker County, Oregon.
Has High Triple-A
Participation

A news dispatch in the Oregon Baker Herald of May 23 states that 94 percent of the farmers and ranch operators of Baker County, Oregon, are participating in the Triple-A program. H. A. Kelly, chairman of the Baker County Agricultural Conservation Association, said that 1138 farmers and 188 ranch operators had filled out work sheets, the story continued. The farmers and ranchers represent 96 percent of the crop land and 98 percent of the range land in the country.

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Section 1

June 5, 1940.

WALLACE SAYS
FARMERS FACE
DREARY AUTUMN

Secretary Wallace, in a radio address Tuesday night, called for economic as well as military preparedness for the United States, according to a story in the New York Herald-Tribune of June 5. While we are moving toward military inviolability, the Secretary said, "we must make sure that the farmers and the unemployed are not made victims of the war's interference with world trade...Farmers producing crops, a substantial part of which go for export, are going to be in trouble this fall. In any event, such export crops as cotton and flue-cured tobacco are almost certain to be in real trouble...."

EZEKIAL ASKS
30 BILLION
WORKS PROGRAM

"....Tuesday night at the Interfaith Conference of Unemployment in the Departmental Auditorium, Mordecai Ezekial, economic adviser to Secretary Wallace, offering his individual views, urged a thirty billion dollar public works, relief and agriculture program over a ten-year period, modifications in the social security and tax systems to increase buying power of low income groups, and concerted economic planning among government, business, labor and consumers," says the Washington Post for June 5.

NEW SYNTHETIC
RUBBER MADE
FROM PETROLEUM

"In case of national necessity, the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey could meet the major rubber needs of the United States by supplying a new synthetic product made from petroleum, according to the announcement made at the annual meeting in Flemington, N. J., Tuesday by W. S. Farish, president of the company," says the New York Times for June 5.

"The new rubber, which is called 'butyl,' was described as a companion to 'buna' rubber, a synthetic product originated by I. G. Farbenindustrie, A. G., of Germany. 'The "butyl" rubber is made from petroleum by processes more direct and simple than those required for the production of "buna,"' Mr. Farish said."

WINTER AND
SPRING WHEAT
FORECASTS

"A winter wheat crop of 489,000,000 bushels and a spring wheat crop of 234,000,000 bushels was forecast Tuesday by leading private experts, based on conditions at the end of May," says the New York Journal of Commerce for June 5.

Says Penna.,
Needs Migratory
Farm Workers

"The BAE reports that 'tens of thousands' of migratory farm workers are looking for jobs," says an editorial in the Pennsylvania Farmer for June 1.

Practically all of them are American born. They range mainly from south to north in spring and summer. Thus far not many of them have been available in Pennsylvania, where it has been hard for farmers to get enough seasonal help ever since relief rolls were started. Most of those on relief will not give up that sure thing for fear they cannot get further relief when summer work is over. The difficulty in getting seasonal farm help has swelled the demand for small tractors to such an extent that manufacturers are unable to supply it. Incidentally, the spring demand for work horses is less than for years and prices are lower."

Farm-Labor
Cooperation
Plan Launched

"Launched last week by the Wisconsin Federation of Labor and the Wisconsin Farmers' Equity Union is a plan whereby farm products produced by the Farmers' Union members and processed and distributed by Labor Union members will be labelled 'Wisconsin Farm-Labor Cooperation,'" says the Dairy World of May 29. "...The plan got under way a year ago when the state boards of the Federation of Labor and the Farmers' Union met at Chippewa Falls..."

Weather and
Crop Bulletin

The weather of the week was characterized by high temperatures over a large northwestern area, subnormal warmth in most of the Southeast, and by heavy rains rather generally in the more eastern States... The surface-soil moisture condition is mostly favorable over a large southwestern area and in much of the northern Great Plains. In the Southwest the amount is ample for present needs rather generally in Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and much of Texas. In fact, conditions in parts of the southern Plains are the best in several years. Also a large northwestern area, including practically all of South Dakota and portions of Nebraska, where droughty conditions have persisted for a long time, had materially helpful rainfall.

In the more eastern States showers were beneficial in the south, but from the upper Ohio Valley eastward and northeastward there was too much cloudy, wet weather and farm work was further delayed... On the whole, conditions remained mostly favorable for development of the winter wheat crop... In the central and eastern Corn Belt much of the week was too cool for good corn growth and planting was further delayed from the upper Ohio Valley eastward and northeastward. Otherwise, planting has been practically completed... In the Cotton Belt temperatures were decidedly low in the central and most eastern portions until the latter part of the week, but in the west nearly normal warmth prevailed... More favorable growing conditions were reflected in improved progress and condition of most truck and minor crops. Planting late potatoes progressed northward to the upper Lake region, and considerable land has been prepared for tobacco transplanting in Wisconsin...

June 5, 1940.

"Made to Order" "'Chantecler' is the name of a breed of poultry especially adapted for Canadian conditions," says the Providence Journal for June 2. "The story of its origination is an interesting chapter in the history of genetics as applied to everyday farmyard problems, going back for more than 30 years. The breed was literally made to order...There was a definite picture of what the future fowl should be like, long before the first chick of the new variety pipped its shell. The breed must be hardy, to withstand Canadian winters. It must be plump, for meat, and a prolific egg producer. It must be fine-boned and white, for attractive appearance. Starting in 1903, Dark Cornish and White Leghorn were crossed, for the first female ancestor, and Rhode Island Red with White Wyandotte, for the first male. A couple years later, White Plymouth Rock was added to the strain, and still later further infusions of White Wyandotte and White Plymouth Rock were introduced. By careful applications of Mendelian principles, the breed was made to conform exactly to the advance specifications. The Chantecler breed was brought to perfection by Brother Wilfrid, a Trappist monk, at the Oka Agricultural Institute."

24,676,000 "Cotton growers in the United States have planted or
Acres Planted will plant this season a total of 24,676,000 acres to this
in Cotton crop, according to correspondents of the New York Journal
of Commerce," says the Journal for June 5. "The area thus shows a reduction of only 7,000 acres or about 0.3 percent from the 24,683,000 acres which the Government on May 24 last reported had been in cultivation on July 1, 1939."

U of M Begins "A new type of service, offering to assemble litera-
Research Aid ture and experimental reports from regional laboratories
to Industry and research institutes all over the world, is announced
Industrial Development Committee of the University of Minnesota," says
the U. S. Egg and Poultry Magazine for June.

"Dr. C. H. Bailey, vice director of the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, heads the committee and says that special emphasis will be placed on finding information about new products, manufacturing processes or uses for raw materials, when requests are received from the industries confronted by problems in these fields. It is expected that most of the questions will relate to chemistry and engineering, but the committee invites problems of any scientific nature...It is intended to be self-supporting, to the extent that a charge will be made for actual labor costs involved..."

Food Seeds "Preparing for eventualities, Congress is providing
Stored in for storage of various food seeds in Hawaii, so that the
Hawaii Territory might be able to produce its own food in case it were cut off from imports." (United States News--June 7)

Frozen Dough
and Batters
Work Out Well

Gertrude L. Sunderlin, Opal D. Collins and Marjorie Acheson report on frozen batters and doughs in the Journal of Home Economics for June. They say: "In experimental foods work at Purdue University, it was found that many batters and doughs may now be added to the list of foods for which freezing is a satisfactory means of preservation. Several types of batters and doughs were frozen and baked after time intervals ranging up to one year.

"Roll dough, after one rising and punching, was packed into containers, sealed, and put through the 'quick freeze' at -10 degrees F., then placed in the frozen food locker and held at 0 degree F. Supplementary tests showed that the yeast cells were not destroyed by the process. Up to a six-week frozen storage period, the roll dough when thawed, allowed to rise, molded, proofed and baked, made acceptable rolls. With longer storage the rolls developed 'off' flavors and odors, due either to rancidity or to odors absorbed.

"Frozen cake batter similarly processed was baked at intervals up to one year. The cakes baked from the frozen batter were indistinguishable in flavor from freshly baked cakes up to a period of four months. There was a very slight decrease in volume as storage time increased. When stored longer than four months, the cakes developed an objectionable flavor, probably due to the absorption of locker odors. It might be that with perfectly sealed containers this objection could be eliminated. Longer storage gave poor texture and noticeable loss in volume..."

Hops Marketing
Plan Up For
Approval

A proposed Federal marketing agreement program for hops produced in the three Pacific Coast States will be submitted to the industry for approval, the Division of Marketing and Marketing Agreements of the Department of Agriculture announced Tuesday. A referendum among growers in Oregon, California, and Washington on the issuance of the Federal order which would make the terms of the marketing agreement program applicable to all handlers will be held between now and June 15. Ballots are being mailed to all growers, and the proposed agreement is being submitted to handlers for their approval. (Press Release.)

Livestock Now
in Lower Rio
Grande Valley

"The Lower Rio Grande Valley, long noted for its citrus and vegetable producing qualities, is fast becoming a livestock raising section as well," says the Coastal Cattleman for June. "T-bone steaks and pork chops, which used to be shipped into the Texas citrus and vegetable growing area, are now being produced at home, and the Lower Rio Grande Valley has even organized a livestock association. Adding ranching to the region is designed to increase the income of farmers by crop diversification..."

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVII, No. 48

Section 1

June 6, 1940.

USDA CONSIDERS
LIMITING CORN
FROM ARGENTINE

"Advisability of taking steps looking to limitation of imports of Argentine corn is under consideration by U. S. Department of Agriculture officials, it was learned authoritatively Wednesday," says the New York Journal of Commerce for June 6. "Officials indicated, however, that there is no emergency situation concerning imports so far that would lead to hasty action in the matter. They said that Argentine corn imports to date have been limited to a relatively small amount on the West Coast. Import limitations may be promulgated by the President under section 22 of the original Agricultural Adjustment Act..."

According to the Baltimore Sun of June 6, upward of 500,000 bushels of Argentine corn have been contracted for delivery to Pacific Coast ports this month.

44% FOOD
LACK AMONG
STRICKEN NATIONS

"Populations of the regions overrun by the German armies are faced with a famine that may exceed anything ever known in the Western World, according to a survey made by experts for the Commission on Polish Relief," says the New York Times for June 6. "...For Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands and the Gouvernement General, a deficiency of forty-four percent of food products existed, according to the latest statistics available...While no exact estimate can be made for Northern France...statistics indicate that, although there was probably a sufficiency of cereals, sugar and fodder, there was a marked deficiency of meats and fats in normal times. Wartime conditions are assumed to have increased the shortage...The starvation level already looms in this region..."

SABATH HITS
LOBBYING ON
SUGAR

"Investigation by the House Rules Committee of what its chairman, Rep. Adolph Sabath (Dem., Ill.) described as 'disgraceful lobbying' in connection with the Cummings resolution to continue the existing sugar law loomed as a distinct possibility Wednesday," according to the New York Journal of Commerce for June 6. "'There has been entirely too much lobbying going on in connection with this sugar legislation,' Rep. Sabath declared. 'It has been disgraceful, and I may call some of these lobbyists before the Rules Committee!'"

June 6, 1940.

Iowa Poll
on Farm
Benefits

Wallaces' Farmer for June 1 carries a recent survey of Iowa farm opinion, in which the following question was asked: "In your opinion, what group of farmers are the federal farm programs helping most? Owner-operator, landlords not living on farm, tenants, or is there any difference?" Here are the results:

<u>Group helped most</u>	<u>Owners</u>	<u>Tenants</u>
Owner-operators.....	28%	34%
Landlords not living on farm....	18%	24%
Tenants.....	8%	7%
No difference.....	46%	35%

Concerning the results, the Farmer says: "Only 4 percent of the Roosevelt voters, with a high percentage of tenants, thought the tenant was doing best, while Landon voters, with more owners in their ranks, had 11 percent who thought the tenant was getting the breaks.

"Even though Iowa farmers are 70 percent for the New Deal's farm program, and even though a higher percentage will participate in the 1940 AAA, they apparently believe some improvements can be made. Tenants are getting too little out of it, and non-resident landlords too much. Or at least that's what Iowa farm people are inclined to think."

Bang's Disease
Rare in Virgin
Island Cattle

"The very low percentage of Bang's infection in cattle in the Virgin Islands is believed to be due to dry weather the year around and an excess amount of sunlight," says the Journal of the American Veterinary Association for June. "...In the United States Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John) there are 10,232 head of cattle, of which 1,498 head have been tested for Bang's disease since September 1, 1939, with 1,491 negatives, four reactors and three suspects, making the percentage of negatives 99.53."

43,000,000 Ills
Charged to Lack
of Vitamin-B

"Dr. Martin G. Vorhaus of New York, pioneer in the clinical use of vitamin B-1 in the treatment of polyneuritis, presented before the 174th annual meeting of the Medical Society of New Jersey Tuesday morning, data showing that acute deficiency or chronic deprivation of the food factor known as the vitamin-B complex may produce 43,046,720 different manifestations of ill health or disease symptoms.

"Vitamin B, found most abundantly in yeast, liver, coatings of rice and germs of cereals, was originally believed to be one substance, needed specifically for the prevention of the Oriental nerve-degenerating disease known as beri-beri. In recent years, however, it has found to be composed of at least sixteen, and possibly twenty, or even more, specific chemical substances, each apparently necessary for the proper chemical functioning of the body. Five of these substances have been prepared synthetically in the laboratory, and a sixth, known to prevent premature gray hair in animals, was isolated in crystalline form in April..."

June 6, 1940.

Spring Grown In Scientific Agriculture for May, F. Gfeller and
Winter Wheat J. G. C. Fraser, of the Experimental Farms Service,
Yield Larger Ottawa, Ontario, report on their field experiments with
winter wheat grown as a spring crop. The report says,
in part: "Ever since the discovery by lysenko of the process of vernalization, plant breeders and physiologists have delved more into the temperature and light requirements of cereal crops. It is an established fact that winter wheat, as the name implies, must in nature be sown in the fall in order to complete its growth during the subsequent summer. Through artificial treatment of seeds with specific temperatures and moistures, one may transform a winter cereal into a spring crop. Such treatment is known as the process of vernalization. The main purpose of this study was to ascertain the agronomic behavior of vernalized winter wheat versus spring wheat...."

"It seems apparent that spring grown winter wheats outyielded spring varieties in two out of four years. In taking the average yield per acre for four tests of Marquis (spring) and Kanred (winter) wheat it is found that they yielded 30.4 bushels and 35.2 bushels per acre, respectively. The commercial milling qualities of the hard red winter wheats proved satisfactory under spring grown conditions..."

New Water "Federal chemists led by D. F. J. Lynch, recently
Treater From named director of the Southern Regional Research Laboratory at New Orleans, have discovered that recovered lignin,
Corn Stalks one of the country's principal waste products, is more effective in treating hard water containing iron than commercial compounds now in use," says the Florida Grower for May. "Supplies of lignin are inexpensive because they are almost limitless...At least 6,000,000 tons a year is available from corn stalks, and an equal quantity from wheat straw. Other extensive supplies are cottonseed hulls and sugar-cane bagasse...The discovery promises the first extensive use for lignin in its original form, because few cities have water sufficiently pure that does not require treatment for removing iron, which imparts an unsightly appearance and undesirable taste..."

New Peat The Atlanta Constitution of June 2 reports a new peat
Industry industry in Georgia. A bog containing an estimated two
In Georgia million bales of peat was discovered ten years ago near Valdosta. Nothing was done to develop this resource until recently, when war cut off the peat imports from Germany, Holland and Sweden. Now the bog has been drained, and it is estimated that 200 bales a day will be shipped by early fall.

Peat moss is used in this country for making flower beds and lawns grow better; to go into light, sandy soils to help hold the moisture; to go into clayey soil to keep it from baking; to hold water for thirsty plants when droughts prevail.

June 6, 1940.

Chinese Cotton
Acreage Rises

"Plans for the expansion of the 1940 Chinese cotton acreage are being pushed both in Chinese controlled territory and in Japanese occupied areas, according to a radiogram received from the office of the American agricultural attache at Shanghai," says Cotton Digest for June 1. "Estimates...indicate that the production in China and Manchuria may be increased by 20 to 25 percent above last year's estimated harvest of about 1,900,000 bales of 478 pounds net."

Stamp Plan
Extended

Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace today announced that the Food Stamp Plan for distributing surplus agricultural commodities will be extended to Glasgow, Montana, and the rest of Valley County. (Press Release.)

3,000,000
Lbs of Cotton
Insulation

The Division of Marketing and Marketing Agreements of the Department of Agriculture Wednesday announced approval of allotments to two manufacturers for the making of 3,000,000 pounds of cotton insulation material from American cotton, linters, and spinnable waste. These are the first allotments under the program announced May 13, 1940, which called for the manufacture of a maximum of 6,700,000 pounds of cotton insulation to encourage the use of American cotton for this purpose. Similar to other Department of Agriculture programs, the project seeks additional outlets for the cotton surplus. (Press Release.)

Cotton Bale
Covers Program
Completed

Approval of manufacturers' applications for the manufacture, sale, and delivery of 145,000 cotton "patterns" or bale covers, under the new program to encourage the use of American grown cotton for this purpose, was announced Wednesday by the Division of Marketing and Marketing Agreements of the Department of Agriculture. This completes the allotment of a maximum quantity of 1,000,000 patterns called for under the program which was announced May 2, 1940, and represents the allotments which have been made since May 11, 1940 when applications to make, sell, and deliver 355,000 bale covers were approved. (Press Release.)

132,217 Acres
Purchased for
National Forests

The National Forest Reservation Commission at a meeting Tuesday in Washington, approved the purchase of 132,217 acres of land for National Forests in 25 States. The land will become part of 51 of the 196 National Forests and Purchase Units. The total purchase price was \$601,740. Since the first of the year, the Commission, of which Secretary of War Harry H. Woodring is president, has sanctioned the buying of 391,485 acres at a cost of \$1,545,666. (Press Release.)

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Vol. LXXVII, No. 49

Section 1

June 7, 1940.

O'NEAL URGES
ADDED FARM
AID PROGRAM

"Edward A. O'Neal, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, proposed to President Roosevelt Friday that surplus farm commodities be bartered for strategic materials in the war emergency," says the New York Times for June 7. "The proposal was included in a twelve-point plan which Mr. O'Neal offered for handling problems of farm surpluses linked with the emergency. He suggested an additional appropriation of \$100,000,000 for disposing of surpluses in domestic and foreign outlets, plus \$100,000,000 to be appropriated to the Red Cross for supplying food and other supplies to war refugees."

"Other recommendations were: Extension of the Marketing Act to canning crops and other commodities now excluded; expanded loan and storage operations; safeguards against speculation in farm land; restrictions on bringing new lands in production and increasing the Commodity Credit Corporation's borrowing power by \$500,000,000 to handle commodity loans."

CCC REQUESTS
500,000,000
LOAN INCREASE

"Officials of the Commodity Credit Corporation told the House Banking Committee Thursday that they needed a \$500,000,000 increase in their borrowing power to handle loans which they expect to be asked to make on 1940 crops," says the New York Times for June 7. Carl Robbins, president of the CCC, "told the committee that since the corporation was created six years ago it had suffered an actual loss of slightly less than \$25,000,000, although complete liquidation of its paper at given times would have been considerably higher."

ARMY AND NAVY
SURVEY FROZEN
FOOD MARKET

"Army and Navy procurement officers are surveying the production facilities of the quick-frozen foods industry, with a view to arranging for such supplies for the defense forces," says the New York Journal of Commerce for June 7. "Frozen foods now widely distributed include numerous fruits and vegetables as well as meats and poultry..."

June 7, 1940.

Another New
Synthetic
Rubber

"Automobile tires made of a new synthetic rubber which has been developed during a number of years of secret research were announced and shown to a gathering of 500 industrialists, scientists and military experts in New York Wednesday by John L. Collyer, president of the B. F. Goodrich Company," says the New York Times of June 6. "The tires are produced...from a synthetic with a petroleum base, which the company calls 'Ameripol,' signifying a polymer, or re-combination of molecules of American materials..."

Dairy Cow Feed From Dried Citrus Pulp "A new industry -- manufacture of dried citrus pulp -- is a source of thousands of dollars income to Florida growers," says a news dispatch from Jacksonville, Florida. "The new product, which is resulting in a great saving to dairymen, utilizes the pulp and refuse from grapefruit, oranges and tangerines. It is considered an ideal feed for cattle. A bumper crop of citrus fruits this year is giving impetus to the pulp output. Today there are at least six large plants in the state producing citrus pulp in commercial quantities and a large number of smaller plants are in operation..."

Pima Hybrid Produces More Lint Cotton "Better than even the famed Pima variety of cotton, is the claim made for a recently developed hybrid, as yet known only by the convenience-symbol 'S x P,' produced jointly by T. H. Kearney, R. H. Peebles and E.

Gordon Smith of the U. S. Department of Agriculture," says Science News Letter for June 8. "The cryptic initials used to designate this hybrid signify that it is a cross between the Sakel variety of Egypt and Pima, originally evolved by Indian cultivators of the arid Southwest. It belongs to the long-staple class of cottons, especially desired for use in automobile tires, lisle hose, etc.

"Among points of superiority claimed for S x P are yield, evenness of maturing, size of bolls, ease in ginning, lighter lint color and greater strength...In total yield, S x P produced 5 percent more seed cotton per acre than Pima in the tests, but ginning increased the advantage markedly. Total lint per acre showed a differential of 13 percent in favor of the new variety."

New Vitamin is Powerful Stimulant

"A new vitamin which is a powerful stimulant to fertility in hen eggs has been recently reported by Dr. Roger T. Williams, University of Texas biologist," says Farm and Ranch for June. "Known as pantothenic acid, or 'acid of life' because nothing could live without it, the vitamin is so strong that just one ounce added to 7,500,000 tons of manure would multiply cell growth fourfold, he reports."

June 7, 1940.

Agriculture in
Germany Shows
Little Change

"German agriculture has been organized on a corporative (totalitarian) basis since the autumn of 1933 -- a few months after the National Socialists came into power," says Harry L. Franklin, senior agricultural economist in the office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, in Foreign Agriculture recently. "Under this system of regimentation, the prices and marketing of virtually all agricultural products are strictly controlled by the Reich Food Estate, with heavy penalties for infractions of the control regulations...Consequently, the present war has occasioned few changes in the German agricultural and food-control set-up aside from those necessitated by the introduction of formal rationing. No serious difficulties in Germany's food supply are anticipated during the first of the present war; but thereafter they are likely to assume increasing importance as the conflict continues, and especially so as the cumulative effect of the allied blockade makes itself felt on Germany's foreign trade."

Diagnostic For
Johne's Disease
Developed

"Marked progress has been made in development of an improved form of a Johne's disease diagnostic agent as a result of investigations at the regional animal disease laboratory of the Bureau of Animal Industry at Auburn, Alabama," says the American Cattle Producer for June. "Known as 'johnin,' the agent was recently tested by federal investigators on 114 dairy cows, of which 35 reacted. Eleven of the reactors died and were found to be affected with Johne's disease, and the other 24 were condemned for slaughter and all found to be infected with the disease. 'The biologic is not new, but its use as prepared heretofore has not been entirely satisfactory for field application,' it is explained by Dr. Bennett T. Simms, laboratory director."

New Seed
Treatments
Developed

"New seed treatments which control the bacterial bean blight disease without injuring the bean seed have been developed at the Louisiana State University Agricultural Experiment Station after forty years of study by plant pathologists over the nation," according to Farm and Ranch for June.

Milk Probe May
Shadow Quiz of
Food Industry

"Announcement in Washington this week of a joint investigation by the U. S. Department of Justice and the New York City municipal government of alleged monopolistic practices in the dairy trade in New York may be the forerunner of the widely heralded Federal investigation of distributive and other practices in the food industry generally, it is believed by many food men," says A. E. Mockler in the New York Journal of Commerce for June 7.

June 7, 1940.

Vegetables
Added to
Stamp Plan

The Department of Agriculture announced today that fresh vegetables, designated by regions or areas and for the periods when they are in "seasonal surplus," will be added this summer to the list of commodities which can be obtained with blue surplus stamps where the Food Order Stamp Plan is in operation. Through the flexible designations, seasonal surplus problems concerning vegetables of major commercial importance can be met when and where they develop. The program will make it possible for families taking part in the Stamp Plan to get needed fresh vegetables, at the same time providing expanded markets for truck crop farmers who market in the Stamp Plan areas. (Press Release.)

FSCC Buys
Butter and
Eggs Heavily

"Agents of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation bought butter and eggs in the open market quite heavily this week, as part of their long-term project to peg prices on these commodities for benefit of farmers and producers," according to the New York Times of June 7.

Rayon Reaches
2,230,960,000
Pounds in '39

"Total world rayon production in 1939 (yarn plus staple fiber) at 2,230,960,000 pounds was a new record high production total, exceeding the previous record of 1,947,305,000 pounds produced in 1938 by fifteen percent, according to the Rayon Organon, publication of the Textile Economics Bureau, in presenting its annual tabulation of world output." (New York Journal of Commerce -- June 7.)

Hearing to Set
Standard for
Lard Products

Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace announced today that a proposal to issue standards defining what meat food products may be sold under the name of lard in interstate or foreign commerce will be considered at an informal hearing in Washington June 18. Claude R. Wickard, Under Secretary of Agriculture, will conduct the hearing, which will open at 10:00 a.m. in Room 3106 South Building, Department of Agriculture.

The standards proposed would provide that lard produced under Federal inspection be made from fresh fatty tissues only. Edible pork fat not measuring up to the proposed definitions of lard could be sold as "rendered pork fat" or under some similar name. Secretary Wallace explained that the purpose of Department officials is to increase protection to consumers under the Meat Inspection Act by establishing standards of uniformity and wholesomeness for products sold under the name of lard. At present products produced under Federal inspection can be sold as lard so long as they are edible and noninjurious. Although many manufacturers of lard already use raw materials which would meet the standard of the proposed definition, some manufacturers use materials which sometimes result in a product of less desirable taste and keeping qualities. (Press Release.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture
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and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXVII, No. 50.

Section 1

June 10, 1940.

U.S. REGULATION
OF MILK TO BE
URGED BY HOWE

"Federal regulation of the production and processing of milk and other dairy producers will be urged in a report to be made shortly to the Temporary National Economic Committee by Dr. Frederic C. Howe, U. S. Department of Agriculture economist, who conducted the committee's investigation of the milk industry last year, it was reliably reported in Washington Saturday night," says the New York Journal of Commerce for June 10. "In his report Doctor Howe will urge that adoption of Federal rules setting up an authority by law for the milk industry. The proposed legislation would require that all milk bought by the FSCC and other Federal and relief agencies, and all milk shipped in interstate commerce must conform to certain specifications as to grade and butterfat content, price paid to the farmer, and other considerations which might help to protect interests of the farmer and consumer..."

ITALY AND REICH
FOOD UNITS MAY
UNIFY BUYING

A United Press dispatch from Rome, dated June 9, says: "Though strict secrecy has been maintained about the real purpose of the visit to Italy of the Reich's Agricultural Minister Walter Darre, the opinion is entertained in many quarters and also in press comments that the Darre mission was to put final touches to an agreement between the Axis powers in the agricultural field....Some quarters go so far as saying that at the meeting with Premier Mussolini Darre discussed with Italian Minister of Agriculture Giuseppe Tassinari the details to combine the two agricultures, including unification of purchases abroad, particularly in the Balkans, according to common needs..."

N.Y. MARKETS
REPORT PROFIT
OF \$377,117

Commissioner William Fellowes Morgan, Jr., of the New York City Department of Markets, reported to Mayor La Guardia Sunday, that his department operated, in 1939, at a net profit of \$377,117 to the city government, and through its enclosed markets in various sections it saves 100,000 families an estimated \$100 a year in food purchases, or \$10,000,000, according to a story in the New York Times for June 10. Mr. Martin "praised the Bureau of Weights and Measures in the department for its fight on behalf of the consumer against short weight, misleading advertising, misrepresentation and adulteration, but said that 'some \$6,000,000 is a conservative estimate of what short weight in food purchases costs the New York consumer yearly,'" the Times continues.

June 10, 1940.

Manufacturers Hit Hard by War "American manufacturers, interested in major lines of export, are becoming increasingly apprehensive over the loss of business abroad," says the New York Journal of Commerce for June 10. "Possibility is seen that Italy may enter the war on the side of Germany and perhaps pull Spain in with her, with the likelihood of consequent economic disruption in Portugal and the Mediterranean countries that have been endeavoring to hold themselves aloof from the conflict. Manufacturers are appealing to the State Department for advice, not only as to how to hold on to what little business is possible abroad in war times, but as to what may be prospects after the war is over."

Over 6,000,000 Farmers Under AAA Program More than six million farmers, operating 82 percent of the cropland of the United States, are participating in the AAA Farm Program in 1940, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration announced today. The number of 1940 participants is estimated at 6,020,400 compared with 5,764,200 who participated in 1939. Last year about 80 percent of the nation's cropland was farmed under the program. This year's estimated participation in the Farm Program is the largest in the history of AAA. (Press Release.)

Minneapolis, St. Paul Get Cotton Stamps Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace Friday announced the designation of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, as the third area in which the Cotton Stamp program to move surplus cotton goods to public assistance families through normal channels of trade will be tried out. The rest of Ramsey County will also be included in the area. Actual operation of the program is expected to begin in about thirty days. The Cotton Stamp program is already in operation in Memphis, Tennessee, and Springfield, Massachusetts. (Press Relcase.)

Scientists Hit 'Wise Crackers' "There is perhaps no greater danger to public welfare than complaints (wise cracks) of political newspapers and campaign speakers that the Government is spending money uselessly in the study of insect life," says the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association for June. "The columnist who thought it was quite humorous that the Federal Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine was studying the life of the termites is certainly a candidate for Public Enemy No. 1....

"Scientists and practitioners engaged in the control of metazoan parasites of plant and animal life need better press agents, or perhaps the country needs more of the altruistic type of statesmen. Loose talk to receptive audiences on this...., strikes at the very root of successful government."

Group Health
Makes Gains
in Rural Areas

T. Swann Harding, Editor of scientific publications, U. S. Department of Agriculture, writes, in the American Scholar, on "Farmers and Miners and Group Health Plans." After reviewing the difficulties met in trying to set up adequate medical care for the miners in the United States, Mr. Harding takes up the problem of group health in agricultural communities. Comparing conditions today with those of 1929, Mr. Harding says that the health projects of the Farm Security Administration have had marked success in providing adequate medical care for the rural American. Mr. Harding reports that in spite of the inactivity and the quiet sabotage of the organized American medical profession, "some 130,000 farm families in 23 States now receive some medical care through (an FSA group health) organization. The program will be extended to 700,000 low-income and destitute families."

"The FSA's health program," he concludes, "is an active demonstration of one way in which medical science can be put profitably to work. There are others. But unless organized medicine becomes socially wiser they must be operated by government agencies, and by those among the medical profession who are ready to go farther than we have in the past toward making adequate medical care available to our entire population."

Aggie Colleges
and Industry
Join for Feed

"What promises to be one of the most important actions taken at the recent convention of the American Feed Manufacturers Association at French Lick, Ind., was the appointing of a committee by the board of directors to establish and maintain contacts and co-operation between feed manufacturers and agricultural colleges and other experiment stations," according to Feedstuffs for June.

"It is believed that a unity of aims and more efficient and economical feeding will result from closer co-operation between feed manufacturers and experiment stations...The committee's chief purpose will be to organize and promote these contacts and to further the practical application of experimental findings."

War Forces
Gloomy Outlook
For U.S. Farmer

An A.P. dispatch from Washington, June 6, says "The European war, Secretary Wallace has advised Congress, may result in an increase of from 350,000 to 850,000 in the number of migrant farm families who go about the United States looking for temporary work in orchards and fields. This gloomy forecast from the Secretary became public Thursday with the publication of the Senate hearings on the annual relief bill... (Secretary Wallace) said that the loss of exports, due to the war, had greatly increased the farm problem..."

Dr. Schreiner
To Advise
On Soils

Dr. E. C. Auchter, Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, announced Saturday that Dr. Oswald Schreiner will act as advisor to the Chief of the Bureau on soil problems connected with the work of the Bureau. (Press Release.)

June 10, 1940.

CO₂ AbsorbedIn the Dark

"One-celled green water plants have been proved to absorb carbon dioxide in the dark, in experiments reported by Dr. H. Gaffron of the University of Chicago," says the Science News Letter for June 8. "This is contrary to the accepted 'rules' of food formation or photosynthesis in plants, which calls for the use of light energy by the plants when carbon dioxide is absorbed."

"This unorthodox behavior on the part of these lower plants takes place only in a special, artificial atmosphere containing hydrogen and oxygen. Some time ago, Dr. Gaffron reported the ability of the same plants to combine oxygen and hydrogen, presumably with the release of energy for their own use, in dim light. Now he has found that if a little carbon dioxide is added to the artificial atmosphere the process can go on in the dark, and that part of the carbon dioxide is absorbed by the plant as well. 'This means,' comments Dr. Gaffron, 'that all three types of carbon dioxide assimilation observed in living organisms, chemical reduction in the dark, photochemical reduction with hydrogen donors in the light and photosynthesis as specified by the liberation of oxygen, may occur in the same plant cell.'"

FCA MightShare Profitsand Losses

"Secretary Wallace, reiterating his belief that agriculture needs permanent relief from 'excessive' farm mortgage debts, proposed Friday that the multibillion-dollar FCA share its profits and losses with farmer borrowers," says the Washington Post for June 8. "The proposal was advanced before the Senate banking Committee at a hearing on legislation designed to reduce interest rates on Government loans and to authorize the credit agency to scale down 'excessive' debts."

Farm ProductsPlan For WarMaterials

"The administration, it was disclosed Friday, has shaped plans for acquiring such critical war materials as rubber and tin through virtual barter of surplus American farm products," says the Washington Star of June 7. "Senator Wagner (Dem., N.Y.) said that Jesse Jones, Federal loan administrator, had told him that if Congress approves the RFC would use raw or manufactured agricultural products to pay almost wholly for reserve defense supplies purchased abroad."

Land BankLoans Upped12 Percent

"The amount of land bank and commissioner loans to American farmers in the first three months of 1940 was \$26,300,000 and the number of loans was 10,100. This represented an increase of about 12 percent in credit volume, according to a statement Sunday by the Farm Credit Administration," says the New York Times for June 10.

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVII, No. 51

Section 1

June 11, 1940.

WAR CUTS U.S.-

ITALIAN TRADE IN
FARM PRODUCTS

Italy's entrance into the war endangers not only an important market for U. S. farm products but also the source of many farm specialities for which there always has been a good market in the United States, the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the Department of Agriculture said Monday. Exports of U. S. farm products to Italy last year were over 36 percent of all United States exports to that country; they were 3.2 percent of all U. S. farm exports, and were valued at more than 21 million dollars. During that year Italy ranked eighth among world outlets for U. S. agricultural exports, and sixth in Europe. The outstanding item in U. S. agricultural export trade with Italy is cotton. In 1939 cotton represented over 93 percent of U. S. farm exports to Italy. Next in importance were lard, prunes, fresh pears, and raisins. (Press Release.)

COTTON SURPLUS

MAY BE TRADED
FOR WAR GOODS

"Carl Robbins, president of the Commodity Credit Corporation, told the House Banking Committee Monday that 1940 cotton surpluses might be exchanged for war materials," according to an Associated Press dispatch from Washington dated June 10. "Testifying in favor of legislation by Chairman Steagall (Dem., Ala.) to increase the Corporation's credit resources from \$900,000,000 to \$1,400,000,000, Robbins said the increase was essential to take care of surpluses in the next crop year..."

COMMODITY

MARKETS CALM
ON ITALY'S WAR

"Commodity markets took Italy's final plunge into the war very much in stride," says the New York Journal of Commerce for June 11. "...Trading in all futures markets...was orderly and net price changes for the day were of only moderate proportions, with the exception of considerable strength in leading import commodities such as rubber, raw silk and tin futures..."

ITALY'S ENTRY
STIRS WHEAT IN
WHEAT FUTURES

According to an Associated Press dispatch from Chicago, dated June 10, Italy's entry into the war churned up a brisk trade in wheat futures for a time Monday, with prices swinging rapidly over a range of more than four cents, but most of a net advance of about three cents was lost before the close.

June 11, 1940.

Rebuilding U.S.
Community Life

Charles P. Loomis, of BAE, writes on "Rebuilding American Community Life" in the American Sociological Review for June. He says, in concluding: "Some generalizations for further testing can be made concerning these observations: (1) Planned revitalizing of community life must take into consideration the cultural backgrounds of the people involved. (2) Existing cultural traits or processes should be used where possible in the nurturing of community development. Cooperatives and other group programs must be developed gradually if the patterns and required group integration for such action are not already in existence. (3) Bureaucratic or dictatorial control from central of far away communities will lose in local cooperation, support and morale, part, if not all, of the advantage that such control has over local control. (4) Governmental action and planning agencies should, where possible, make local communities functional units. If communities are disregarded by action agencies dealing with local people, support for these programs will not be on as permanent a basis as if the community were made the center of planning and administration. If communities are not now sufficiently vocal and powerful to demand a place in administration and planning, disregarding them will certainly not strengthen them. To revitalize community life, existing communities should be made functional units in constructive programs."

Agricultural
Cooperation
of Americas

Among the "Washington Whispers" in the United States News for May 31 is a paragraph saying that "The \$1,000,000 President Roosevelt has asked to encourage rubber production in this hemisphere is the forerunner of other requests for agricultural cooperation with Latin American countries, in the name of continental solidarity."

Landless Farmers
Threat to Nation

The Nation for May 25 says that the LaFollette Committee hearings on migratory farm labor "represents more than a humane interest in a luckless portion of our population. Small farmers, freed from feudal tenures, contributed greatly to the development of our characteristic democratic and equalitarian ways. The changes that have taken place in rural areas, by depriving large sections of our farm population of economic freedom and security, are a serious threat to the institutions which these same areas did so much to nurture... We are developing a rural proletariat, and the Russian and Spanish examples remind us of the revolutionary and counter-revolutionary tinder that exists in landless and hungry rural masses. More than half a million farms in this country consist of land so poor that no farmer can make a living on it, no matter how hard he tries. At least 2,500,000 persons live on these pauper farms... The strange phenomenon of 'farmers on relief' has made its appearance: at some time during the last seven years more than one out of every four farm families has required assistance from WPA or FSA... Steinbeck's Joads are a vivid symbol of a growing misery and unrest. The future of democracy in America may depend on our ability to cope with the problem they represent..."

June 11, 1940.

Watchful
Waiting for
Middle West

"The Middle West, after five years of drought, is troubled by the inevitable sequence--lowered income and unwillingness to make expansions," says C. M. Harger in Annalist for May 23. "It is entering the new crop year with a meager prospect for its premier crop, wheat. Ordinarily, a series of poor years would bring mass emigration, but the recent movement has been only partial and mostly the producers are sticking to the farms, living largely on benefit checks from various Federal and state relief agencies...And there is calm assurance that Congress will do nothing to lessen the aid being dispensed...Underlying conditions in the Middle West are sound, and, looking ahead, bankers see only a waiting period for the next six months, with Spring bringing, as it usually does, a more hopeful spirit...Whatever the weather, and it cannot well be worse than last year--the possibility that the war will be prolonged and that, eventually, the midwest will be called on to furnish increasing exports create hopes of a rise in income. So there is watchful waiting, with a belief that better times are ahead."

Lespedeza
High Rating
Quail Food

"The Asiatic, or Common lespedeza, a 'naturalized' type of bush clover, has long been considered an excellent quail food, but it has remained for the Soil Conservation Service to determine to what extent quail prefer it over other available plants," says Field and Stream for July.

"Through the cooperation of Alabama sportsmen, the SCS last year discovered that lespedeza made up 22.8 percent, in volume, of all foods identified in the crows of 225 quail turned in by hunters in one county. The common partridge pea, an old standby, ran second best with 21.8 percent.

Sympathy For
Danish and
Dutch Farmers

"While our Holland dairymen call for and deserve our greatest sympathy...one should not forget other smaller groups that have suffered also," says the California Dairymen for June 1. "Among them are the Danes. Farmers make up a third of the Danish population. They used to export more than \$200,000,000 in agricultural products; now they must trade with Germany, receiving German goods in exchange. Danes are fine, scientific farmers and dairymen. In 1860 the average yield of butter per cow was 80 pounds. In 1929 it was 317 pounds per cow. Tenancy was almost unknown there. Co-operative societies included forty-five percent of the population. Denmark gave the world a remarkable rural civilization built on democracy..."

New Food
of Milk
And Apples

The U. S. Egg and Poultry Magazine for June says that workers at Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg have perfected a new food product called "apple milk." In its manufacture, whole apples are ground to pulp and then mixed with skimmilk.

TVA Makes
Machines for
Hillside Farms

"In seven years, TVA has compiled a history of sober scientific accomplishment in the field of industrial and agricultural research," says Business Week for May 25. "The fertilizer and soil erosion program of the TVA required special machinery devoted to hillside farms. TVA engineers developed a seeder plow, which plowed, dropped seed and fertilizer, all at once...A new low-cost threshing machine is being tried out. Unexpected rains often spoil haycrops. So TVA research developed a low-cost barn hay drier...Trial production and merchandizing efforts on the TVA's quick-freezing mechanism started two years ago, got in full stride last year. Farmers around Cleveland, Tennessee, brought truckloads of strawberries to a building on the outskirts of town. The berries were put into an entirely new machine devised by TVA engineers, which froze each berry into a solid red marble. Freezing time, six minutes. The berries were put into...a specially designed zero-temperature barge. The barge went...to St. Louis, where the product was turned over to purchasers at premium prices. Weeks and months later, when the berries were used, it was reported that they retained the taste and shape of fresh berries... The same quick-freezing has been adapted to other fruits, vegetables, meats and poultry..."

Worm Farming
Aids Poultry,
Fish And Frogs

An A.P. dispatch from Los Angeles, June 10, says that Dr. George Sheffield Oliver of that city has made a nice profit in worm farming. He ships worms to farmers and others who want to use them in agriculture, poultry-raising and in feeding fish and frogs. He says that he has made shipments to most of the States and to twenty-three foreign countries.

488,858,000 Bu.
Winter Wheat-
U.S. Forecast

The Agriculture Department Monday forecast a winter wheat crop of 488,858,000 bushels on the basis of June 1 conditions, and estimated spring wheat production at 239,000,000 bushels.

Crop Reporting
Service is
Improving

Culturist for June 8. "Both Washington and Albany reports are gotten out more promptly...The coverage and accuracy of the reports is constantly improving..."

More Virginia
Farmers Sign
For Farm Plans

According to an Associated Press dispatch from Blacksburg, Virginia, 106,000 Virginia farmers have signed 1940 farm plans, indicating their intention to participate in the Federal agricultural conservation program this year. In 1939, there were 103,000 signers in the state.

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture
to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views
and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXVII, No. 52

Section 1

June 12, 1940.

CHICAGO TO LIFT
LOW PRICE BAN
ON GRAIN FRIDAY

"Minimum prices for grain futures on the Chicago Board of Trade will be abolished at the beginning of trading this Friday, it was announced Tuesday, following a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Exchange," says the New York Journal of Commerce for June 12. "The minimum prices were established at the request of Secretary Wallace on May 19, after wheat prices had broken the 10¢ maximum fluctuation on three consecutive days. Other grain exchanges throughout the country are expected to follow the lead of the Board of Trade..." In the meanwhile, "North American wheat markets were strong Tuesday, closing prices showing net gains of about 2¢ per bushel to the best levels of the day. Continuing heavy rain in the Southwest, delaying the harvest and causing fears of the spread of black rust, was the main strengthening factor..."

SURPLUS CORN
URGED TO MEET
WAR STARVATION

"Use of corn surpluses in this country and the Argentine to meet the starvation which will follow the European war was urged in Philadelphia Tuesday by George E. Quisenberry, vice president and editor of Business Publishers International Corporation, in an address...before the Foreign Traders Association," says the New York Times for June 12. "Mr. Quisenberry suggested that, if finance is needed, particularly to aid the grower, Fort Knox would be the answer...He saw a great need for 'brushing aside the pressure groups here, which, for example, have prevented accord with Argentina on canned meats and have prevented edible oils from Brazil...'"

WOULD MATCH
ALLIED FOOD
BUYING \$ FOR \$

"Legislation, appropriating up to \$500,000,000 to meet dollar for dollar purchases of foodstuffs in this country by the Allies through regular commercial channels, was proposed Tuesday by Representative Joseph J. O'Brien (Rep., N.Y.)," says the New York Journal of Commerce for June 12. "Calling attention to reports that Secretary Wallace has estimated that American agricultural exports soon will fall off as much as fifty percent, the congressman pointed out that our farmers would be confronted with lower prices and huge surpluses, while victims of Europe's war are facing the greatest famine in history..."

June 12, 1940.

Magazine Urges
4-Point Plan
For Lard, Pork

"To help farmers get better prices for pork and lard is the worthy aim of the American Pork Producers, Associated, but one of their circulars is likely to mislead farmers about the nature of the hog problem," says an editorial in Wallaces' Farmer for June 1. "That circular gives the impression that the hog market will be fixed up in fine shape if we just tell city cash customers what fine foods lard and pork are. This leaves out too much. Hog prices are low for four reasons: (1) Loss of export markets in pork and lard; (2) Overproduction of hogs for the present market; (3) Low city incomes which keep domestic consumption low; and (4) Tendency of city buyers with money to use lard substitutes instead of lard and to cut down on use of pork."

New Soil
Test Device
Uses Color

The Florida Grower for June describes a new soil-testing "laboratory" that has recently been put on the market. It consists of a circular, plastic case which protects a chemically treated ribbon that changes color with degrees in acidity or alkalinity, and a color chart for determining soil conditions revealed by color reactions in the tests. Supplementing the soil tester is a manual listing the soil preference of more than 300 plants and giving instructions for treating soil if it is too alkaline or too acid.

Stock Magazine
Endorses Soil
Conservation

"Suicidal agricultural practices in the handling of soil problems in this country indicate that history is repeating itself here as in earlier civilizations," says an editorial in the National Live Stock Producer for June. "What has happened in north China, Korea, north Africa, Asia Minor and Mesopotamia is already well started in this country, but fortunately we have awakened to the pricelessness of the few inches of top soil that feeds and sustains the present generation, and should adequately take care of all that follow if proper land practices are followed. Today literally billions of acres of originally productive lands throughout the world bear the curse of unfaithful stewards through the centuries... Trees and grasslands can avert the irreplaceable loss from erosion. Conservation, in its fullest sense, of the basic resources of land, water and the spirit of peoples, can maintain the human values of wholesome standards of living, opportunity, freedom, justice and faith in the destiny of our modern civilization..."

FSA to Build
Groups of Farm
Workers Homes

Approval of the construction of eight groups of farm workers' homes in Southeastern Missouri, to house 502 families, was announced Tuesday by the Farm Security Administration. Eight groups of homes, costing approximately \$900 per unit, exclusive of the cost of land, will be constructed. Bids have been received and contracts will be awarded in the near future. (Press Release.)

June 12, 1940.

Radio For Parachute Fire-Fighters A new lightweight radio for the parachuting fire fighters being used on the National Forests for the first time this year was announced today by the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Tests made by the Forest Service on the Chelan National Forest in Washington last fall with a crew of parachute jumpers indicated the practicability of dropping fire fighters from airplanes to put out small fires in some of the inaccessible back-country areas of the National Forests. The new radiophone has been developed so that the "smoke-jumper" can keep in touch with the plane pilot and with his headquarters when he reaches the ground. (Press Release.)

Wheat Exports To Allies Rise "In recent weeks the merchant fleets of the Allies have been kept busy transporting large quantities of steel products to Europe, but the movement of wheat has also shown an increase and a large number of ships were used in transporting this grain during the past two weeks," says the New York Journal of Commerce for June 12.

War Spread Stops Cotton to Italy "While cotton prices were being bid up \$1 to \$1.50 a bale in New York and in Southern markets Tuesday, on speculative buying, the cotton trade of this country was faced with the virtual elimination for the time being of the European Continent as a market for the American fiber," says J. L. Severance in the New York Journal of Commerce, June 12. "Spread of the European war to the Mediterranean basin was seen in the cotton trade as practically the completion of the cycle of events that began with the annexation of Austria...Now, with Italy involved, the most important neutral cotton consumer has been eliminated..."

Research Fund For Turkey Diseases "For more than two years, enterprising members of the Missouri Turkey Growers Association have been working to raise a fund to be used for a research study of hexamita infection and trichomoniasis," says Turkey World for June. "This disease condition has been causing increasing losses throughout the central United States...Announcement has been made that the University of Missouri board of directors has accepted a grant of \$600 for use by the veterinary department to study this disease problem..."

Crop Bulletin According to the weekly crop bulletin, temperatures in the Northwest were too low for good growth of warm-weather crops and some local damage resulted from frost, but the general warmth and mostly abundant precipitation in practically all other sections east of the Rocky Mountains were decidedly favorable and crops in general made good growth. The current moisture situation is the best in a long time...West of the Rocky Mountains there is a rather urgent need for moisture in the eastern Great Basin and parts of the far Southwest, but otherwise conditions continue mostly favorable... The week was favorable for winter wheat and satisfactory progress was reported rather generally...

June 12, 1940.

Immunizing "A plan for improving the health of persons who
Dairy Cows for drink milk by immunizing dairy cows against diseases
Human Health peculiar to humans, including many forms of the common
 cold, was outlined Monday night by Dr. Samuel Adams
Cohen, of the New York County Medical Milk Commission..." says the New
York Herald-Tribune for June 11.

Quoting Doctor Cohen, the Herald-Tribune continues: "...The milk of the specially conditioned new breed of certified dairy herd will contain selective nutriments and unidentified biological factors which will increase the health and vigor of the human being and improve his growth and development. Perhaps more important, however, will be the immunization of the dairy herd against many diseases peculiar to humans. Specific immune bodies, therefore, will be secreted in the certified milk of tomorrow which, when consumed, will tend to prevent the occurrence of many infections and diseases including, it may reasonably be assumed, the ubiquitous common cold."

Crossbred Pigs "Experimental trials in comparing crossbred and purebred pigs for pork production are reported in Bulletin 380
Prove Better of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station," says Hoard's
Than Purebred Dairyman, June 10. "These trials involved a total of
1,015 pigs farrowed in 108 litters, and the authors of the bulletin summarize their conclusions as follows: The percentage of stillborn pigs was smaller among crossbred than among the purebreds...Crossbred pigs averaged about three or four pounds heavier at weaning time than purebreds...Crossbred pigs gained about .09 to .12 pound more per day while in the feed lot than purebreds...The crossbred sows observed in this study proved to be efficient pig producers, either when mated back to a boar of one of the parent breeds or to a boar of a third breed. When sired by a purebred boar the pigs from the crossbred sows, either backcross or three-breed cross, compared favorably with the first-cross pigs..."

100 To Make "Trial plantings with the new Essar tomato, de-
Trial Plantings veloped jointly by Dr. B. A. Rudolph, University of
of New Tomato California College of Agriculture, (Berkeley) and Dr.
 Michael Shapovalov, Federal Bureau of Plant Industry, to provide a fruit which would be resistant to verticillium wilt, and yet meet all the requirements of California canners, will be made by more than 100 selected seedsmen in the United States this season," says Food Field Reporter, June 10. "Rudolph and Shapovalov believe the new variety to be superior both in wilt resistance and horticultural characteristics to the common used early Santa Clara canners variety. No seed is available for free distribution or sale at this time, all trials being conducted under supervision of the United States Department of Agriculture."

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVII, No. 53

Section 1

June 13, 1940.

EVER-NORMAL
GRANARY MAY
SAVE STARVING

Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace Wednesday issued the following statement. The opinion seems to be widespread in the United States that Europe in the coming month will see the most serious famine in the world's history. In view of this fear, attention should be called once again to the abundant supplies of food and fiber in this country. The Ever-Normal Granary program has placed the United States in a position to be of the utmost service to a suffering world when and if fears of famine and scarcity abroad become reality. The immediate task of the farmers still remains the finding of markets for their products. Useful in peacetime, the Ever-Normal Granary is doubly useful today. Through commodity loans, the Granary has prevented ruinous declines in prices which inevitably would have followed the war's curtailment of farm exports. At the same time, supplies have been stored against future emergencies which may grow out of this war. (Press Release.)

URGE BROADENED
SURPLUS PLAN
REMOVAL

"A broadened surplus removal program to protect agriculture and help meet the Agriculture Department's fear of ultimate famine in Europe is expected to be proposed to President Roosevelt by Secretary Wallace for recommendation to Congress, it was indicated Wednesday," says the New York Journal of Commerce for June 13. "Although details of the program are lacking, Secretary Wallace revealed that it contemplates expansion of domestic consumption through the FSCC, storage of surpluses through increasing capital stock of the CCC, and promotion of increased foreign consumption..."

WHEAT BAN
PEG REDUCES
MARGIN 5¢

"Indicating confidence that the wheat futures market has successfully weathered the storm that struck in May and that the market will take the lifting of the grain pegs in its stride tomorrow, one large Chicago grain house will reduce customer's margins requirements on wheat as of today from 15¢ to 10¢ per bushel, it was learned...late yesterday afternoon." (New York Journal of Commerce, June 13.)

June 13, 1940.

Work Stock
Production
is Big Problem

"With five Cotton Belt States -- Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama and North Carolina -- leading the nation in number of mules, and the value of Southern horses and mules totaling approximately half-a-billion dollars, livestock leaders are stressing work stock production and feeding, along with other livestock development," says the Cattleman for June. "In stressing the need for better care of work stock, Dr. Milton P. Jarnagin, University of Georgia, has said: 'From the standpoint of capital invested and services rendered, horses and mules are our major livestock enterprise.' To this, Newell and Goodell of the Mississippi Extension Service add: 'Feeding, management and production of work stock are problems of major importance in Mississippi, as they are in farming sections of all countries....'"

Attack Gross
Weight Basis
for Cotton Trade

"Here we are, America, one of the oldest, largest and most important cotton-producing countries in the world, yet our methods of handling, wrapping, and to some extent, merchandizing cotton is as old and as out-of-date as an ox-cart," says the American Cotton Grower for June. "America is still the only country in the world still sticking to the outmoded gross weight basis, a system which gives some pencil-pushers extra figuring, the bagging and patching folks extra business, the ginner and the compress men an extra rake out of the cotton dollar, and the scalper a chance to rook the farmer and the mill on tare, plus fees for comptrollers and lawyers in settling disputes..."

Silk Worms
to Produce
in California

According to a UP dispatch from Fresno, June 12, farmers of the fertile San Joaquin Valley in California are considering the possibilities of producing silk and rubber on their land. Production of silk in Tulare County as a major industry is considered a distinct possibility, while the rubber-producing plant guayule could be grown profitably in Kern County, provided the commercial price of rubber climbs to two or three times its present level. A. Kasanjian, of Yettem, and Philip Avedigian, of Dinuba, two Armenian immigrants, have announced that they intend to propagate 80,000 mulberry trees to provide food for silkworms. They estimate they have about one million silkworms now hatching. Lewis A. Burtch, Kern County Agricultural Commissioner, said that guayule was grown successfully in Kern County several years ago on a ranch near Wasco. He pointed out, however, that despite favorable climate and water conditions, the costs of production in relation to the price were excessive.

Cottonseed
Crush Falls
in 10-Months

"The Census Bureau reported Wednesday that the cottonseed crushed in the ten-month period August 1 to May 31 totaled 4,054,502 tons, compared to 4,300,746 tons in the corresponding period a year ago," says the New York Herald-Tribune for June 13.

June 13, 1940.

Limestone
Decomposition
in Fertilizers

E. R. Collins and F. R. Speer, of the North Carolina Experiment Station, in an article "Decomposition of Dolomitic Limestone in Fertilizers," appearing in the Journal of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists for May, say: "The recent trend in the manufacture of mixed fertilizers has been toward sources of nitrogen that leave an acid residue in the soil. At the same time the more concentrated and purer materials that have been used permit only relatively small amounts of the secondary nutrients as impurities. During the transition period, fertilizers were generally sold on the basis of their content of nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash, and with little regard to the need for other essential elements or secondary effects on the soil. For the last few years manufacturers have neutralized the potential acidity of fertilizers with lime. The inclusion of such neutralizing materials as dolomitic limestone, which contains considerable magnesium, raised a question as to the availability of this magnesium as a nutrient to the plant...Studies were made in the greenhouse to determine the extent of decomposition of dolomitic limestone of different degrees of fineness when used in quantities calculated to form a neutral fertilizer. These experiments comprised pot trials with Dunbar, Norfolk, Ruston, and Portsmouth soils under conditions simulating those in the field...The data presented indicate the following conclusions: (1) That pH and buffer capacity of the soil are the major soil factors involved in dolomitic limestone decomposition; (2) That determination of residual carbonates constitutes the most satisfactory index of carbonate decomposition; (3) That calcined, 30-mesh and finer, and composite dolomitic limestones of the quality used in these experiments should supply at least a large part of the magnesium needs of plants."

Values of
Nine Corn
Substitutes

The American Miller for June tells of recent experiments at the Ohio Agricultural Station in Wooster in which 42 trials were made in comparing the value of nine different products used as complete substitutes for corn. Summarizing the experiments, the Miller says: "With shelled corn having a value of 100, values of the various complete substitutes for corn were ground barley, 100.3; corn oil meal, 69.5; white hominy feed, 107.2; ground oats, 78.7; hulled oats, 135.8; ground rye, 93.9; ground wheat, 107.6; flour wheat middlings, 102 and standard wheat middlings, 90.2. Feeds ranking especially high...as partial substitutes for corn included corn germ meal, corn oil meal, hulled oats, oat middlings and rice polish, while other feeds high in this regard are coconut oil meal and wheat flour middlings...Certain feeds, particularly corn oil meal, had a high corn replacement value when fed in limited quantity but much lower value when used to replace a higher percentage of corn..."

Co-op Markets
7,000,000 lbs.
of Own Wool

"Wisconsin wool producers have marketed upward of seven million pounds of wool in the past ten years through their own organization, the Wisconsin Cooperative Wool Growers Association at Portage." (News For Farmer Cooperatives, June.)

June 13, 1940.

Plan to Divert
Surplus Puerto
Rican Coffee

A program for the diversion of up to 10 million pounds of surplus coffee produced in Puerto Rico was announced Wednesday by the Division of Marketing and Marketing Agreements of the Department of Agriculture. Under the plan, payments of 2 cents per pound will be made to the Puerto Rican Coffee Price-Stabilizing Corporation for coffee, bought in Puerto Rico from growers or associations of growers, which is diverted from normal market channels in Puerto Rico to markets in continental United States. The Puerto Rican Coffee Price-Stabilizing Corporation was formed recently by special act of the Puerto Rican legislature. (Press Release.)

Scientist Says
Selenium is
Human Hazard

"Poisoning with the rare element, selenium, was suggested today as a human hazard by Dr. M. I. Smith of Washington, before the American Medical Association's annual meeting," says the Washington Post for June 13. "The disease is common among livestock in some parts of the Midwest and in some mountain states, owing to the large percentage of selenium in the soil. It was first described as the 'hoof rot' disease in the horses of Marco Polo on his trek to China."

Plan Flue-Cured
Tobacco Quota
Referendum Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace announced Wednesday that plans are being made to hold a marketing quota referendum among growers of flue-cured tobacco on July 20. Representative growers, warehousemen, and businessmen of the flue-cured tobacco area have requested a vote before the market opens, and have suggested July 20 as the date for the referendum. While the date for the referendum can not be set before July 1, the present stocks of flue-cured tobacco make it certain that the total supply for the 1940-41 season will exceed the quota level and that a referendum will be required. (Press Release.)

Wheat Trading
Broadens on
Peg Price Ban "The trading in wheat broadened materially Wednesday, reflecting the decision of the officials of the Board of Trade to remove the minimum limits on prices on Friday," says the New York Times for June 13. "War news was regarded as discouraging and, after a small rally at the start, prices sagged under increasing offerings. Other domestic markets and Winnipeg were weak..."

Farmers are
Hardest Hit
of All by War "Farmers are harder hit by the European war than any other group in the nation, Philip E. Henderson, regional supervisor of the FSA, told the annual institute of town and country ministers Tuesday," says an AP dispatch from New Brunswick, New Jersey, dated June 11. "The migratory worker suffered most among the farmers, he declared. He attributed the burdens placed on agriculture to a sharp falling off of agricultural exports..."

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVII, No. 54

Section 1

June 14, 1940.

RETAIL GROCER

HEAD LAUDS

FOOD STAMPS

In a signed article in the New York Journal of Commerce for June 14, Gerrit Vander Hooning, President of the National Association of Retail Grocers, said that the stamp plan is "an aid in this time of depression and unemployment." He called on grocers throughout the country to "support and assist in the successful carrying out of the 'food stamp plan.'"

In the same edition of the Journal, Joe E. Timberlake, President of the National-American Wholesale Grocers' Association, called for the wholehearted support of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, which was appointed by Secretary Wallace last fall.

GANNETT URGES

U.S. DONATE FOOD

TO WAR STARVING

"Frank Gannett proposed Thursday that Congress donate \$500,000,000 of surplus farm products to warring European nations to avert 'the worst famine in history,'" says an AP dispatch from Virginia, Illinois, dated June 13. "...(He)...called on the Administration to abandon its crop control program 'at once' and regain export markets by subsidizing shipments abroad..."

DAILY PRICE

LIMIT ON

GRAIN TO STAY

"No reduction in the daily permissible limits for price changes in grain futures is contemplated when the minimum prices which have been in force since May 18 are removed today at the Chicago Board of Trade and other grain exchanges..." says the New York Journal of Commerce for June 14. "...It became apparent Thursday that apparently there is full agreement in Administration circles and the grain trade that...reduction in the daily price limits would impede the liquidity of the grain futures markets, since experience has shown that a 5¢ limit is too narrow..."

COTTON PICKER

DEMONSTRATED

AT WORLD'S FAIR

Mack Rust, who, with his brother, John, invented the automatic cotton-picker, demonstrated the machine in the Hall of Inventions at the New York World's Fair Thursday, according to a story in the New York Times for June 14.

June 14, 1940.

Grazing Service
Kills Kangaroo
Rats on Range

"Millions of unwelcome boarders that ate seeds and forage needed by cattle and sheep have been removed from the Federal range during the past five years under the program of the Grazing Service for the eradication of kangaroo rats and other rodent pests on the public grazing areas, according to the Interior Department," says the New York Times recently. "With government experts estimating that eight of the rats will consume as much forage as a 750-pound cow or three sheep, a total of 9,329,633 acres of land in Federal grazing districts have been treated for removal of the pests. Several truckloads of the animals have been destroyed in a single month...In addition to consuming the growing forage, scientists have discovered that one pair of rats will store from ten to twenty pounds of seeds in their dens each year, with the average of ten dens on each acre of land..."

'Half and Half'
is Growing
In Favor

"'Half and Half' or 'Substandard Cream' is the name required by regulations of the Division of Foods and Dairies, Department of Agriculture of the State of Illinois, which must appear on the label of a new milk product," says Milk Plant Monthly for June. "The industry is becoming increasingly interested in and many inquiries are being received about this new product. It is not milk, being higher in fat content than normal milk; it is not cream, being lower in fat content than the legal definition of cream requires. It is being variously labeled as 'Breakfast Special,' 'Cereal Milk,' 'Cereal Cream' and other coined names. In order to protect the consumer from fraudulent names which might misrepresent the contents of the package, the Superintendent of the Division of Foods and Dairies has promulgated the regulations that govern the labeling of this product..."

New Berry and
Fruit Juice
Blends for Cans

"Several new berry juices and blends of familiar fruit juices with others newly developed, can now be canned and seem to have a promising commercial future, according to Dr. W. V. Cruess, head of the fruit products laboratory of the University of California," says Better Fruit for June. "Among the new juices prepared at the University are Boysenberry, currant, blackberry and raspberry...Doctor Cruess points out that many new blends of juices have proved to be excellent products. Among them are mixtures of strawberry and blackberry juices; red grape and orange juices; various berry juices with pineapple, grapefruit and orange; apricot and apple juices; and prune juice with grapefruit."

More Pork
Products
For Relief

Further purchases of lard and pork products for domestic relief distribution totaling 72,556,160 pounds, were announced Thursday by the U.S.D.A. These purchases, added to the more than 99,000,000 pounds previously bought, bring the accumulative total of purchases made since the program was authorized in December, 1939, to approximately 172,000,000 pounds. (Press Release.)

June 14, 1940.

New Vetch is
Promise for
Southern Farms

Southern Seedsman for June carries an article, "New Vetch Proves Worth in South," by H. R. Albrecht, Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station. The author says: ".....Now...a new vetch -- Williamette, showing considerable promise -- has attracted the attention of the Southern farmer. Designated as Vicia sativa No. 34947, this vetch was first grown in the breeding nurseries of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station during 1916-17 by Dr. H. A. Schoth, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The original selection had been made in northern California by Roland McKee, (also of the U.S.D.A.). Williamette is, actually, an improved strain of common vetch. It is not, as some suppose, an improved strain of wild or Augusta vetch (*Vicia angustifolia*). Compared with common vetch, it is far more hardy and disease-resistant and it grows much more vigorously....It has not outyielded hairy vetch in pounds of green matter per acre every year, but it has never failed to produce ample vegetation to supply the nitrogen requirements of the succeeding crop....It should be mentioned that Williamette, like all common vetches, is earlier in maturity than the more commonly grown hairy vetch..."

Farmers Offer
Land to Puerto
Rico Jobless

"Sugar growers and other farmers in Puerto Rico have offered more than 20,000 acres of farm land to the Insular Government to help feed the territory's 200,000 unemployed workers, the Puerto Rican Trade Council announced Tuesday," according to the New York Journal of Commerce recently. "Aided by an appropriation of 30,000 (dollars) from the Puerto Rican Treasury for seed and other expenses, it is expected that the plan will provide as much as 40,000,000 pounds of vegetables for laborers who are unemployed as a result of Federal sugar quota and wage-hour restrictions, the council said. The number of unemployed is said to be at an all-time peak, in spite of heavy Federal spending for national defense preparations and work relief...Plantings will be confined to crops that mature in a few months...so that the lands can be replanted to sugar on short notice if war emergencies threaten a sugar shortage..."

Mobile Power
Plant Going
Into Service

"REA Administrator Harry Slattery has announced that the first completely mobile REA-financed generating plant is undergoing final tests preparatory to going into service in Illinois, and that REA has allotted funds for two others in Oregon," says Electrical World for June 1. The plant "will power the lines of the Jo-Carroll Electric Co-Operative, an organization of about 600 rural families...to whom REA has lent \$349,000 for 278 miles of power lines and two mobile generating units..."

Farmers Use
More Lime Under
Grant-Aid Plan

Farmers already have obtained $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as much lime under the 1940 grant-of-aid program as they requested during the entire 1939 season, the AAA reported today. The present program still has several months to run in most states. For the first five months of this year, the AAA distributed 1,677,609 tons of liming materials, as compared with 660,610 tons during 1939. (Press Release.)

June 14, 1940.

Citrus Culls
as Manure
For Groves

Citrus Leaves for June, (by courtesy of Hadar, citrus periodical of Palestine), quotes an article on the utilization of citrus culls in fertilizing, by M. Winnik, Miqveh-Israel Experimental Station. The article says: "The difficulties encountered in recent years in the marketing of citrus culls have given rise to the idea of utilizing the surplus culls as a source of manure for the groves. This problem has now become even more urgent as a result of the difficult position of the citrus industry which compels the growers to look for ways and means of economizing as much as possible on the cost of cultivation and manuring of their groves. The Miqveh-Israel Experimental Station has devoted special attention to the problem...Citrus fruits contain nitrogen in an almost entirely organic form which nitrifies slowly. The investigation has shown that the nitrification of nitrogen contained in citrus fruits does not vary much from that of animal manure. This is true also in regard to the availability of phosphorus and potash contained in citrus fruits as compared with the availability of those derived from animal manure...In addition to these elements citrus fruits contain also organic matter, thus somewhat increasing their value...It should be understood, however, that as a fertilizing substance these culls cannot be considered of high value as long as there is a possibility of obtaining animal manure at reasonable prices. Citrus culls should be applied as manure only when they cannot be utilized in any more remunerative way..."

New Orleans
Low-Cost Milk
Program Approved

The Division of Marketing and Marketing Agreements of the Department of Agriculture Thursday announced approval of the extension of a low-cost milk distribution program for New Orleans, Louisiana, for the 1940-41 fiscal year which begins July 1. The program, in effect since May 15, supplements operations under the Federal-State orders regulating the handling of milk in that area. It is designed to enlarge markets for dairy farmers supplying the New Orleans market through encouraging consumption of fluid milk by making it available at 5 cents a quart for relief families. (Press Release.)

New Low
For Stock
Exchange Seat

According to an AP dispatch from New York dated June 14, a new low price for Stock Exchange seats since 1914 was registered yesterday when a seat in the Exchange was sold for \$36,000.

Black Asks Aid
of All Regional
Bank Presidents

A. G. Black, Governor of the Farm Credit Administration, Thursday urged the presidents of the 12 regional Banks for Cooperatives, in conference in Washington, to be ready to take an active part in helping farmers' marketing cooperatives respond to whatever necessities may arise for handling agricultural products expeditiously.

DAILY DIGEST

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and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXVII, No. 55

Section 1

June 17, 1940.

WALLACE SAYS
BERLIN AIMS TO
CONQUER WORLD

Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, speaking at Bennington College, yesterday morning said that Germany if victorious would have "the complete resources of the European and African continents and a slave population of 400,000,000 people," states the New York Herald Tribune of June 16. He added that Adolph Hitler, "determined to subjugate the world," looked upon the Western Hemisphere as his "eventual happy hunting ground."

LARGE LARD
BUYING PLANNED
BY F.S.C.C.

The outlook for lard appears to have some hopeful spots on account of the large buying program planned by the Government, states the New York Journal of Commerce of June 17. The lard trade expects stocks to decrease considerably during the next three and a half months on the strength of the announcement made last week by the FSCC. The latter corporation plans to purchase about 20,000,000 pounds of lard a week from now until the early part of September. Part of the lard will be purchased for relief distribution and large quantities are to be purchased by the Government for shipment to Europe for relief purposes also.

GROCERS SEE
AMPLE FOOD
STOCKS

Grocers from all over the country in New York for the annual convention of the National Association of Retail Grocers, expressed the belief that even in the event of abnormal food purchases by Europe, supplies in the United States will continue ample, a story in the New York Journal of Commerce of June 17 reported. The Agricultural Advisory Council established by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace just prior to the outbreak of the war will function as Washington spokesman for the allied food trades in the event of national emergency, the grocers declared.

QUARTER YEAR
EXPORTS REACH
10 YEAR HIGH

The value of United States exports in the first three months of this year was unequalled since 1930, according to a report by the Foreign Commerce Department of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, states the New York Times of June 17. The composition of our export trade has undergone changes, the report said, and some of the largest gains were made in markets removed from the immediate scene of the war.

June 17, 1940.

Spectroscopic Analyses of Fertilizers

An abstract of a paper on "Quantitative Spectroscopic Analyses of Important Trace Elements in Mixed Fertilizers," by E. H. Melvin, R. T. O'Connor, O. R. Wulf, and C. H. Kunsman, of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, appears in the Journal of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists for May. It says: "A method has been developed for the simultaneous spectroscopic determination of boron, manganese, and copper in mixed fertilizers. In the samples analyzed these elements were present in amounts below 0.1 percent. Standards have been prepared that have the average composition of mixed fertilizers, but which have different known quantities of the minor elements ranging from 0.0004 percent to 0.4 percent. An internal reference element, in this case beryllium, was used in this work. It is present in the standards and is introduced into the samples to be analyzed in the constant amount of 0.05 percent. The average deviation of spectroscopic determinations made on these standards was about 16 percent, which indicates the present accuracy of the analyses for these trace elements..."

Peach Mosaic Will Not Spread to Other Fruits

L. C. Cochrane, of the University of California, has reported that recent investigations have shown that natural spread of peach mosaic disease to other stone fruits is probably very rare, if it exists at all, according to a story in Better Fruit for June. The virus of the disease, according to the story, can be grafted into almonds, apricots, plums and prunes. None of the almonds or apricots and only one prune and three plum varieties thus infected has shown symptoms of the disease. There is strong evidence that both sweet and sour cherries are immune to peach mosaic. Mosaic diseases of apricots, almonds and prunes have been grafted into peaches where they produced symptoms typical of peach mosaic. It is not known, however, whether these mosaic diseases will spread naturally to the peach.

Retail Sales in Rural Areas Show 2% Rise

Sales of general merchandise in small towns and rural areas increased from April to May according to the Commerce Department's seasonally corrected index based on sales of small town chain stores and mail order business, says the New York Journal of Commerce of June 17. May sales for the trade covered by the index were about 2 percent above the year ago level.

Dairy Growth in Georgia

"The growth of Georgia's dairy industry is well illustrated by a report of the American Jersey Cattle Club that 4,047 Jerseys have been bred in this state during the last five years. Of these, 2,044 have been sold, and a total of 481 registered herds added to the Georgia total -- 126 of these in the last year alone." (Atlanta Constitution, June 8.)

June 17, 1940.

Induced
Flowering
Studied

E. J. Schreiner and M. A. Huberman, of the North-eastern Forest Experiment Station, writing in the Journal of Forestry for June on induced flowering for mass selection say: "At the present time mass selection appears to be the most practical approach to genetical improvement of forest stands where dependence must be placed on natural reproduction...In species like white pine, oak, and hickory, which produce seed crops at rather long and irregular intervals or in alternate years, the possibility of using induced flowering for the application of mass selection is particularly worthy of note. In years when the majority of the trees in the stand are without flowers, such methods would permit extensive pollination between the selected trees...If the individuals selected as parents for the next generation could be stimulated to produce flowers and seeds in off years, a large portion of the seedlings should be of the desired parentage. One difficulty, of course, would be the identification of the seed crop from which the individual seedlings were derived. In those forest species which permit such identification, the seedlings originating during the year of selected cross-mating could be favored in stand improvement operations and the seedlings of undesired seed years could be eliminated. With many species whose seedling age is obscure this would not be feasible; nevertheless, the stand of reproduction would have an increased percentage of superior progeny which should show up better than the rank and file seedlings and would thus be favored in improvement measures...."

'Phenomenal
Popularity'
of Stamp Plan

R. L. Duffus, in the New York Times Magazine of June 9, outlines the rapid growth of the FSCC Stamp Plan throughout the country and comments upon its phenomenal popularity. "What is being attacked by the stamp plan is the bitter paradox of superabundance on the farms and hunger in towns and cities," he says. "Anything that will bridge this gap, even temporarily and only partly, seems bound to gain support. Actual widespread tests, just now in the making, will possibly suggest changes and improvements. Newark, costing \$5,000,000 a year for more than 80,000 persons, will be an important proving ground. So will New York City, if Mayor La Guardia's drive to put stamps into at least one borough is successful. The cotton stamp plan in Memphis and Springfield may lead to other commodities being taken under the stamp scheme. "The possibilities are endless. We shall hear more about this new invention before we hear the last of it."

Ice Protects
Cranberries

"Experiments conducted by D. J. Crowley, head of the cranberry-blueberry laboratory at Long Beach, Washington, revealed that water, sprinkled continuously over the berries during cold weather, formed an ice coating which prevents the outside air, the temperature of which is lower than that of ice, from getting through to the fruit and destroying it," says Better Fruit for June.

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\$30,597 Cotton Stamps Issued in Memphis "With the first month of the Federal cotton stamp program completed today, local FSCC officials reported yesterday that \$30,597 in green and brown stamps had been issued in Memphis," says the Memphis Commercial Appeal for June 7. "This is about forty percent more than what was expected for the first month, according to Ernest Nalle, Memphis FSCC official...Total number of clients served was 7,855."

Small Mammals Control Insects "Small Mammals and the Forest," is the title of an article in the Journal of Forestry for June, by W. J. Hamilton, Jr., and David B. Cook, of Cornell University and New York State Conservation Department. The authors say in summary: "The role of small mammals as agents in the control of forest insects has long been overlooked. Their insectivorous nature and large numbers make them potentially more useful than birds in this respect. Through their activity on the forest floor, where they work the litter thoroughly, these mice and shrews perform a highly useful and desirable service to the forest. In addition to destroying the larval and pupal stages of many pests, they work the soil completely, allowing for better penetration of air and water. They serve as food for valuable fur-bearers and act as buffer species for predatory birds and mammals, giving added protection to valuable game species...In brief, these small mammals, long considered only an unfavorable species, are an unrecognized asset in forest management."

France's Sugar Beet Crop is Reduced 60% "Based on conditions existing in the war area in France on May 27, estimates were that France's sugar beet crop, which amounted to 856,999 tons in 1937-38, would be reduced on the coming crop by sixty percent, a private report to Lamborn and Company indicated." (New York Journal of Commerce, June 13.)

Excavation of Growing Trees A convenient method for the excavation of growing trees in undisturbed soil is described by F. A. F. Schmid and F. J. Nutman, agricultural research workers of Tanganyika Territory, East Africa, in Soil Science for June. The authors say that by this method a growing tree together with about 2 tons of soil has been successfully transported and that the necessary apparatus can be made by anyone with a modicum of manual dexterity. The uses of the method are not confined to the removal of rooted trees, they continue; with appropriate modifications it could be used for the preparation of soil monoliths, for the excavation and transport of blocks of undisturbed soil for the construction of lysimeters, or for a number of similar purposes.

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVII, No. 56

Section 1

June 18, 1940.

'CARTEL SYSTEM'
DISCUSSED FOR
ALL AMERICAS'

"A vast 'cartel system' to handle exports of Latin-American products and block Nazi economic domination in this hemisphere was under consideration, officials said in Washington Monday, as a group of Government leaders held an hour-and-a-half conference on hemisphere trade problems," says an AP story out of Washington dated June 17. "The plan appeared to contemplate a hemisphere cartel to control the prices of such products as wheat, cotton, beef, coffee and copper -- a Pan-American effort to protect the hemisphere in the economic field as the Monroe Doctrine safeguards it from European political penetration..."

GROCERS WANT
FOOD STAMP FOR
'ENTIRE NATION'

Immediate extension of the FSCC food stamp plan to the entire nation was urged Monday at the New York meeting of the National Food and Grocery Conference Committee, according to a story in the New York Journal of Commerce for June 18. Members of the conference group addressed a telegram to all members of Congress asking immediate extension of the food stamp plan as an emergency move.

WHEAT DROPS
NEARLY 7 CENTS,
RECOVERS PARTLY

"Wheat prices dropped nearly seven cents a bushel in the early trading on the Board of Trade Monday to a new low level since Sept. 1, 1939, on general scattered selling induced by the plea for peace made by France," says the New York Times for June 18 in a story out of Chicago. "There was a notable lack of support until July and September wheat sold below 75 cents. As soon as the pressure let up the market rallied quickly. The close was at net losses of 2-5/8 to 2-7/8 cents."

MAY MERCHANDISE
EXPORTS ABOUT
SAME AS APRIL

"The Commerce Department estimated Monday that May merchandise exports from the United States to other countries totalled \$317,000,000, about the same as in April, despite the spread of war fronts," says an AP story out of Washington dated June 17.

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Food Stamps
on Sale in
Newark

The Federal food stamp plan will go into effect in Newark on June 17th at 9 O'clock in the morning, said the New York Times recently. One hundred clerks in the Newark Center Market will begin selling the stamps to the 83,000 persons in the city who are eligible to purchase them. The Times also states that J. Ebbitt, Welfare Commissioner of Yonkers announced today that 540 stores and markets have arranged to accept the Federal food stamps that will be circulated here Monday morning.

New Poison
Ant Trap

Prof. Dwight M. DeLong, of Ohio College of Agriculture, in the June National Seedsman, tells about a new poison ant trap, developed at the College. He says: "Ants are frequently baited by attractive materials but the greatest weakness of an ant bait is that it dries out rapidly when exposed, which causes it to become...noneffective as a killing agent. This difficulty has been overcome...by the use of a humidistat in the container which prevents the moisture in the bait from evaporating because the humidistat automatically replaces this moisture as it becomes dissipated in the air. Therefore...the bait remains effective for a period of several weeks. As a rule ordinary ant baits remain effective only a few hours...The sealed can may safely be used in homes because children and pets cannot reach the poison without destroying the metal container, and since the contents are held in absorbent materials they do not leak or seep from the can..."

Sheepherders'
Employment
Service

"The problem of obtaining a sufficient number of experienced and qualified sheepherders during the lambing and shearing season in the Rocky Mountain area is perplexing to sheep growers each year," says J. C. Mitchell, Director, Employment Service Division, Albuquerque, in an article in Employment Security Review, June. "Prior to the advent of the public employment service, large employers of this type of worker sent their representatives into New Mexico in February and March each year to employ the necessary workers...In more recent years the employers requested bus or railraod companies to recruit workers and agree to pay the fares of the number required, but only in rare instances were the transportation-system employees acquainted with the qualifications which the workers should have. This method resulted in no end of confusion and expense to both employer and employee...In more recent years one of the responsibilities of the State Employment Services through the farm-placement supervisors has been to organize and maintain a more orderly process in this labor market...A clearance system has been developed between the order-holding States and the applicant-holding offices of New Mexico, and they exchange information long before the seasonal demand..."

Medicinal
Plants & Herbs
in England

"Attention is directed anew to the cultivation in Great Britain of a larger range of medicinal plants and herbs than has been done hitherto and the use of much larger areas for such plants as have already been grown successfully on British soil," says an editorial in Medical Record, June 5. "The Pharmaceutical Journal, London, gives a list of such medicinal plants which are of major importance in war times. Few vegetable drugs of major importance are produced in England on a large scale. Belladonna, henbane, and digitalis are among the small number which are grown successfully...The following comment of the Pharmaceutical Journal is interesting. During the war of 1914-1918 medicinal herb farmers and amateurs were frequently exhorted to try to make England self-sufficing so far as various vegetable drugs were concerned. No little enthusiasm was created at that time, but when the war was over and cargoes of drugs produced in various parts of the world became freely available, the project was neglected again by the newcomers in this particular field of agriculture...The recent sharp advance in the cost of crude iodine is a reminder that Britain depends wholly upon a far-off place for its supplies of this important substance..."

Metis Organize
For Government
Assistance Now

Canada has its own farm migrant problem, according to a dispatch from Regina, Saskatchewan, in the Christian Science Monitor for June 12. It consists of some 3,000 Metis, or half-breeds, largely farmers, hunters and fishermen, who, in the last ten years of depression and drought, have been forced on relief. Their living standard is estimated by some authorities to be on a level, or lower, than the migrants of California. Only recently, they organized the Saskatchewan Metis Association, through which, in conjunction with a similar organization in Manitoba, they intend to appeal to the Canadian Government for aid in solving their economic problems.

Germany Biggest
Rayon Producer

"During 1939 Germany replaced Japan as the world's foremost rayon producer, the former with an output of 600,000,000 pounds, or 27 percent of the world total, and Japan with an output of 548,850,000, accounting for 24 percent of the world's total," says American Wool and Cotton Reporter for June 13. "The United States remained the third largest producer with an output of 384,200,000 pounds, or 17 percent..."

Scranton Gets
Food Stamp

Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace recently announced that the Food Stamp Plan for distributing surplus agricultural commodities will be extended to Scranton, Pennsylvania. It is expected that operations will be extended to the rest of Lackawanna County as soon as additional necessary administrative arrangements are completed. (Press Release.)

New Way of
Making Lard

"John Holmes, president of Swift & Co., announced Monday the discovery of what he described as a 'revolutionary development' in the processing of lard, terming it the most important improvement in the oldest of shortenings in the past fifty years," says the New York Times for June 18. "The development, he said, involves the addition of small quantities of a vegetable substance obtained from tropical trees, making it possible to protect lard's natural advantages and at the same time keeping it fresh when exposed to air without refrigeration...Dr. R. C. Newton, Swift's chief chemist, and Dr. D. P. Grettie of his staff jointly share the discovery."

Sources of
Bacterium
Tularensis

An editorial in the Journal of the American Medical Association, for June 8, says: "A recent report devoted to a discussion of the sources, symptoms and prevention of tularemia states that there were 2,088 cases and 139 deaths from this disease in the United States alone in 1938...In 1939, 2,200 cases were reported. While it is true that more than 90 percent of the human cases of tularemia are due to contact with infected wild rabbits, it may also be noted that at the present time twenty-four types of American wild life have been implicated in transmitting the causative agent, *Bacterium tularensis*, to man. Infections have resulted, for instance, from the bite of insects, such as the wood tick, dog tick and horsefly, as well as from the bites of animals such as the skunk, raccoon, coyote, tree squirrel, ground squirrel, opossum, dog and lamb... Most patients recover from tularemia without permanent ill effects and thereafter enjoy immunity from the disease. Nevertheless about 5 percent of the patients die, often after developing pneumonia. Despite reports in the literature of the favorable therapeutic effect of anti-serum, it is now reported that there is no specific preventive or curative treatment for the disease...."

Poultrymen
to Organize

"For the first time in its history, all phases of, and contributing organizations to, the poultry industry will be represented in a meeting scheduled to be held during the convention of the International Baby Chick Association, July 22, in St. Louis," says Feedstuffs for June 8. "D. D. Slade, chairman of the National Planning Committee of the industry, has called the meeting for the purpose of establishing a national body for carrying on consumer education in behalf of the industry...."

Small Pig
Keepers in
Britain

"Following the revival of eighteenth century pig clubs which took place before the war began, the British Ministry of Agriculture has set up the Small Pig Keepers' Council to encourage small holders, cottagers, in fact, anyone with an unused plot, to raise pigs," says the New York Times for June 15.

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVII, No. 57

Section 1

June 19, 1940.

NYE SUPPORTS
ALL AMERICA
ECONOMIC UNION

Senator Nye (Rep., N.D.), an isolationist leader, gave full support Tuesday to President Roosevelt's plan to forge an economic union of the Western Hemisphere nations, according to a UP story from Washington, dated June 18.

CAN MEET ANY
FARM SITUATION
SAYS WALLACE

"Problems which are being created for the American farmer, as well as for agricultural producers in other nations of the Western Hemisphere, by the spread of German control over the Continent of Europe, were studied Tuesday by President Roosevelt and Secretary Wallace," says the Baltimore Sun of June 19. "Mr. Wallace asserted, after the meeting, that 'we are prepared to meet any situation.' He referred, in this connection, to the large reserves of farm products now being maintained in this country, and to the Administration's plans for banding all the American nations into an economic unit in order to meet the trading methods expected of Germany."

In the meanwhile, "a subcommittee of experts from the State, Treasury, Commerce and Agriculture Departments worked on plans for...legislation (that) would be needed to put into effect the proposed Pan-American accord, and the heads of these departments are expected to meet with Mr. Roosevelt on Thursday...Under the Pan-American plan now being worked out, the exportable surpluses of all the American nations would be handled by a coordinated trading agency, so that a united economic front would be presented to Europe..."

SAME WAGES FOR
HAWAII SUGAR
LABOR AS 1939

The Sugar Division of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration announced Tuesday that the minimum wages to be paid persons employed in the production, cultivation or harvesting of sugarcane in Hawaii during the period from January 1 through December 31, 1940, by producers who apply for payments under the Sugar Act of 1937, are the same as in 1939. (Press Release.)

PREPAREDNESS
COUNCIL FOR
FOOD INDUSTRY

At the second meeting of the convention of the National Association of Retail Grocers in New York Tuesday, steps were taken to launch immediately a national preparedness council for the food industry, according to the Journal of Commerce for June 19.

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Cow Udders W. W. Swett, C. A. Matthews and R. R. Graves, Bureau
Non-Cancerous of Dairy Industry, report in a paper abstracted in the
Journal of Dairy Science, June, that "A study of the
anatomy of the udders of more than 400 cows, heifers and freemartins
over a period of several years has brought to light lesions of various
types...It is particularly noteworthy that, in the hundreds of udders
examined no growths or tissue changes that appeared to be of a cancerous
nature have been found, despite the fact that 31 percent of the 313 cows
of lactating age were over 8 years of age and presumably had reached that
period of the life cycle in which mammary cancer may be expected to make
its appearance in susceptible species...In the light of recent studies
with mice which show that the breast cancer incidence may be increased
in the young of a low cancer strain if they are allowed to nurse females
of a high cancer strain, or vice versa, it is gratifying to know that
the cow's udder -- the source of one of the most important foods used
for human consumption -- is practically free from cancerous growths."

Farm Employment The June 1 estimate of total farm employment was
June 1 Shows 11,896,000 persons, according to the monthly farm labor
Seasonal Rise report of the Agricultural Marketing Service. This was
an increase of nearly a million workers over the esti-
mated number a month ago when 10,941,000 persons were working on farms.
The gain was seasonal in nature and raised the index of farm employment
to 99 percent of the 1910-14 average, compared with 91 on May 1 and with
103 percent on June 1, 1939.

Australian Southwestern Sheep and Goat Raiser, for June, says:
Tick Might "It has been reported that the Australian tick has been
Menace U.S. found in cattle of northern Mexico and that some 57 head
of cattle carrying these ticks are reported to have wan-
dered over at least seven pastures this side of the Rio Grande. They
were supposedly smuggled across the river. 'The Australian tick is much
more dreaded than the Texas fever tick. It can be distinguished from
the Texas tick by the fact that the male has a short, stubby "tail",'
declared Harry P. Hornby, U. S. Collector of Customs for the Laredo dis-
trict. 'Deer and hogs are known to be carriers of the Texas fever tick,
but the insects cannot complete their life cycle on them, whereas the
life cycle of the Australian tick can be completed on these animals.
It is almost certain that deer especially, would aid in spreading the
Australian tick in the pastures of this country should the pest gain a
foothold north of the Rio Grande!'"

Synthetic Fiber "A project to produce synthetic fibers from soy-
From Soybean beans in Japan is under way due to the accumulation of
stocks on account of the war," says New Agriculture,
May. "In the past Germany has been a large purchaser but since last
August not a single shipment has been made."

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Painted Flies
Reveal Flight
Distances

Guy McConnell, writing on "Disease Has Wings," in Scribner's for June, says: "Last fall, long after the first frosts had exterminated the last of the winged pests about our premises, our kitchen was suddenly invaded by a cloud of house flies that in an instant swarmed through every room. I investigated, saw buzzards dipping over woods a mile beyond village limits. Using the buzzards as guides, I walked to the woods and found the decaying carcass of a pig. Thousands of flies were feeding and breeding on the remains, and winging away in every direction to become Public Enemies of the Air. I related that experience to Dr. John R. Mohler, Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry. He told me the disease-carrying house fly roams far and wide, having crossed the Mediterranean and English Channel. They have flown down-wind from Cuba to the Florida Coast, 95 miles. Mohler, in his position as head of the largest sanitation and meat inspection bureau in the world, long ago unmasked the migratory house fly as the worst of the insect public health enemies. His men caught and painted flies red, and broadcast pleas that any red flies seen be reported to him by phone. Some of the painted flies covered 11 miles bucking head winds in less than 48 hours. They flew in bad as well as good weather, but never returned to their filthy breeding places where they were trapped and released.

"Near Miles City, Mont., 387,877 marked flies were released. At 79 stations, city-wide, 1,056 were captured. Within 48 hours, from four starting points, the whole city was infested. Here the dispersion beyond the city line was from five to 12 miles, in all directions. In the course of their lives, houseflies, living but from three days to four weeks, become ancestors of more than nine generations, and the male is a polygamist. In her lifetime, the female lays four batches of 120 fertilized eggs and from these are hatched more than five trillion descendants, about half of which are males....."

Rayon-Wool
Blankets For
Next Fall

"It is reported that blanket manufacturers are beginning the manufacture of part-rayon blankets on an extensive scale," says E. E. Reynolds in the Southwestern Sheep and Goat Raiser, June. "In some instances, blankets containing 50 percent of rayon will be on sale in the retail stores next fall. This is said to be the second major invasion of rayon in the market for wool. The first, it is asserted, was when part-rayon rugs appeared in the retail trade."

Briton Urges
Subsidy For
Farm Land

"Among suggestions in Great Britain for making home acres productive is that of Sir George Stapledon for the payment of a subsidy of \$20 an acre out of the Exchequer funds for clearing and plowing derelict land likely to be productive, and also an extension of the \$10 per acre plowing-up grant in connection with permanent pasture land," says the New York Times of June 15.

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War Affects Industrial conditions affecting the domestic consumption
U.S. Demand for demand for farm products are expected to continue
Farm Products the improvement in evidence since April if active
warfare in Europe continues. This should make the average level of industrial activity in 1940 higher than in 1939. The early cessation of the hostilities would necessitate many readjustments on the part of business which could result in declining activity. This would not likely be prolonged or severe in view of increasing defense expenditures. Consumers' income, having declined much less than industrial production since the high point was reached last December probably will not increase as much as the indicated rise of industrial activity. The recent spread of the European war may curtail somewhat further the already greatly diminished export outlets for United States farm products, particularly for cotton. (Press Release.)

Patman Bill
Tabled Tuesday

The Patman chain store tax bill was tabled apparently Tuesday by the House Ways and Means Subcommittee. This action precludes further consideration of the measure at this session of Congress.

1941 Crop
Insurance
Plan Told

Provisions for the 1941 "all-risk" wheat crop insurance program -- virtually the same as those which governed the 1940 program -- were outlined Tuesday by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. The most important change in the 1941 program is the establishment of a single and early closing date for the acceptance of applications on winter wheat. To insure their 1941 crops, winter wheat producers must apply for insurance and pay the premium before the crop is seeded or by August 31, whichever is earlier. Those dates are from two weeks to a month earlier than were in effect for the 1940 program. (Press Release.)

Wheat Mosaic
in U.S.S.R.

The Review of Applied Mycology (Great Britain) for May, prints the following abstract of a paper by V. K. Zazhurilo and Mme. G. M. Sitnikova, of the U.S.S.R.: "Mosaic of wheat is stated to have been recorded lately from many parts of the U.S.S.R., chiefly from the central regions, but also the south, including almost all provinces in which winter wheat is grown....The diseased plants show necrosis of the phloem, under-development and reduction of the plastids, nuclear hypertrophy and an increase in the number of nucleoli, and the formation of vacuolar inclusions within the cells. The content of starch and soluble carbohydrates was higher in diseased plants (4.97 and 17.13 percent, respectively, of the dry weight) than in healthy ones (2.82 and 14.24 percent), but the amount of nitrogen was the same. All attempts to transmit the virus by mechanical means were unsuccessful. In transmission experiments with insects, Deltotcephalus striatus, fed first upon diseased plants and then upon healthy ones, transmitted the disease to 56 out of 60 plants in one experiment, to 29 out of 123 in another, and to 32 out of 41 in a third, the incubation period being 15 to 18 days...."

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXVII, No. 58

Section 1

June 20, 1940.

WAR VICTIMS
FACE GREATEST
FAMINE

"A grim picture of millions of Europeans starving in the greatest famine since the Middle Ages, unless the Nazis are defeated before the winter, was outlined

Wednesday by food experts in London," says James M. Minifie in the New York Herald Tribune for June 20. Mr. Minifie added that it is believed the Goebbels' German propaganda machine has already been "put in high gear to pour tales of woe into American ears."

RETAIL GROCERS
HIT SUSPENSION
ANTI-TRUST LAWS

"A strong protest against unwarranted blanket suspension of the anti-trust laws as tending to jeopardize the competitive position of independent retail grocers as opposed to corporate chain operation was voiced by the National Association of Retail Grocers in a resolution adopted at an executive session of the organization's convention (in New York Wednesday)." (New York Journal of Commerce, June 20.)

FOOD PRICES
SLIGHTLY
HIGHER

The AP, June 19, quotes a report from the National Industrial Conference Board stating that, in the United States, the cost of living in May increased one-tenth of one percent over April, as a result of higher food prices.

BRITAIN'S CO-OPS
GAIN MEMBERS
DESPITE WAR

"Despite the war, British cooperative membership increased by 230,000 in 1939, bringing the total to 8,634,481, while sales rose \$31,450,000 above the previous year, according to a report...from...(the) Co-operative Union of England." (New York Times, June 20.)

BRITAIN'S FOOD
STORE WILL LAST
FOR WEEKS

According to an AP dispatch from London, June 19, Lord Woolton, Food Minister, told the House of Commons that Britain has enough essential foodstuffs to last "for weeks and weeks," even if nothing else came into the country.

June 20, 1940.

Tobacco Disease
Like Leaf Curl
Found in Brazil

"During 1938-39 a disease of tobacco resembling leaf curl was observed in 1 to 5 percent in plantings of the Kentucky variety in the Piracicaba district of Sao Paulo, Brazil," says an abstract of an article by A. S. Costa and R. Forster, of Sao Paulo, in the Review of Applied Mycology (Great Britain) for May. "Other varieties affected include Goiano, Flor branca, Virginia, Amarelinho, and Creoulo de Braganca, besides Nicotiana sylvestris. The disorder assumes three forms, two of which are common and are designated as the 'rugose' and 'leaf roll' types, the former corresponding to Thung's 'common kroepoek' and the latter (in part) to his 'transparent'; no description is given of the third, apparently a very rare type, hitherto observed on one plant only. Unlike leaf curl, the Sao Paulo disease was not found to be transmissible by grafting and no insect vector is known, so that its nature remains for the present obscure."

New Corn Sirup

in Ice Cream Journal of Dairy Science, June, carries the following abstract of a paper by Geo. J. Edman and P. H. Tracy,

University of Illinois, on "Use of High Conversion Corn Sirup in the Manufacture of Ice Cream and Ices." The paper says: "The introduction of a new type of corn sirup (known commercially as Sweetose) with an increased dextrose equivalent and reduced dextrin content as compared with the regular type of corn sirup, has made it desirable to determine the possibilities of the use of this product as a sweetening agent in the manufacture of ice cream, water ices, and sherbets... It has been found possible to replace as much as 33-1/3 percent of the sucrose in ice cream and 50 percent of the sucrose in water ices and sherbets without any undesirable effects. The sweetening value assigned to the high conversion sirup was two-thirds that of sucrose. The superior body effect resulting from the use of the sirup was thought to be due to the higher total solids content resulting as well as the effect of the dextrins and the slightly greater depressing effect upon the freezing point that the sirup has as compared with sucrose. No deleterious flavor effects were observed, and in some cases the added flavors were intensified by the sirup...."

Milkweed

Enzyme as "A possible use has been found for milkweed, one of America's commonest weeds," says New Agriculture, May.

Tenderizer "University of California scientists have found that it will yield an enzyme which will break down proteins in food, making tough meats tender or aiding digestion. The only other plant which yields such an enzyme is the papaya. It is believed that the milkweed eventually will yield as much enzyme, acre for acre, as the papaya."

Broaden Food
Stamp Plan

Chicago, Illinois, Atlanta, Georgia, and the Borough of Brooklyn, New York, have been added to the list of cities to be served by the FSCC food stamp plan.

June 20, 1940.

Oats in La. "Louisiana is not one of the great oat producing States of the Union, but from the work that is being done now in this area it seems that we shall begin to see more and more oats in the Southwest Louisiana rice belt," says an item appearing in Rice News, May. "Farmers in Calcasieu, Jeff Davis and some of the other parishes have found a variety of oats that does well in this climate and they are going in for oat cultivation on a much larger scale. The value of oats for this area can be very great. As a winter crop it can furnish winter grazing for cattle and then as spring comes on can be allowed to mature and the grain used for feed. When it is possible to grow oats that will yield from 50 to 60 bushels to the acre in this section, we can find at hand another important feed crop for farmers...."

Reduction of Ginning Costs Tom D. Cherry, Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A. and M. College, in an article in the Progressive Farmer for July, says, in part: "Members of cooperative cotton gin associations enjoy custom ginning at cost. But the point is, how much does it cost? Figures show that this service may cost from \$3 to \$12 per bale, depending upon many things. In the case of one gin, the cost per bale in 1932 was \$2.28 and in 1934, \$12.81. Although 1934 was an unusually bad year for this gin, \$12 per bale is too high for any year. An average gin toll is \$5.50 a bale but it may be much less if the high cost years can be controlled. If ginning costs can be reduced \$1 per bale, the co-op gins of Texas will be able to save their members approximately \$1,000,000 annually. This can be done by careful planning. Cost engineering is the new approach. It sounds difficult, but really it is not..."

Britain's Substitute For Cod Oil The Journal of the American Medical Association, June 8, carries the following item in its column "Foreign Letters," (London): "British production of cod liver oil is almost stopped because most of the trawlers of the industry are in the service of the navy and imports of Norwegian oil have ceased. Up to the beginning of April imports were on a large scale, so that there is no immediate scarcity; but it is necessary to husband supplies. As a wartime substitute it has been decided to add to the British Pharmacopeia an oil expressed from the seeds of *Arachnis hypogaea*, a native of Brazil, which is now extensively cultivated in India, West Africa, China and America. This oil has properties similar to those of olive oil. It will be vitaminized by addition of vitamins A and D to the standard of a good average specimen of the oil expressed from the fresh liver of the cod, *Gadus morrhua*. The addition to the pharmacopeia will embody a formula which will become a legal standard under the food and drugs act, with which venders must comply in the sale of 'medicinal' cod liver oil for human use as distinct from 'veterinary' cod liver oil. For the latter there is already an official substitute sanctioned by the Ministry of Food. It consists of a mixture of cod liver oil of high vitamin potency and marine oil."

June 20, 1940.

France Fifth
Best Customer
of U.S. Farms

If France should be cut off from American markets, the United States would lose its fifth best customer for farm products, the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the Department of Agriculture said Wednesday. Farm products were nearly 30 percent of all United States exports to France in 1938 and over 17 percent in 1939. During both years France was fifth among world outlets for United States farm products and third in Europe, after the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. (Press Release.)

Meat Supply
Ample for
Consumers

Plenty of beef, pork and lamb, and a better consumer demand for these meats this summer than last are indicated by the current livestock situation report of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. (Press Release.)

B.A.E. Report
Cites High
Freight Rates

A series of indices of railroad freight rates on perishable farm products, covering the last 25 years, was issued today by the BAE. The figures show that rates on fresh fruits and potatoes average lower now than during the decade of the 1920's, but continue relatively high as compared with the prices received by the producers of these products. Rates on truck crops other than potatoes are the highest since 1920. (Press Release.)

Standard For
Canned Tomatoes
Amended

The U. S. Department of Agriculture announced Wednesday that the standard of identity for canned tomatoes has been amended. This standard was promulgated under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and has been in effect since January 1. It was published in the Federal Register of July 18, 1939. (Press Release.)

Preparing
for Peace

An editorial in the Canadian Society of Technical Agriculturists Review for June says, in part: "While our immediate objective is to win the war, we must keep in the back of our minds the problem of winning the peace -- a problem even more difficult than winning a war. The thickly populated countries of Europe, in the interests of the health of their peoples, should use more of their land to produce milk, butter, eggs, fruit, vegetables and meat, and buy more of our wheat. But such an adjustment, if it comes, will require time, and meanwhile our ample stocks of wheat, a blessing in war-time, may become once again a drug on the market. While we may hope to regain at least a part of the central European wheat market, and with that object continue unabated our ~~vigilant~~ effort to maintain and improve the high quality of our prairie wheat crop, we must recognize that the development of a more diversified prairie agriculture remains in the forefront of our problems. Such products as bacon, wool, beet sugar, flax and other oil seeds, important in war-time, are also to be encouraged as items in a sound peace economy. Reduction in sources of loss, such as animal and plant diseases, insect pests, and weeds will be necessary to enable us to survive the peace."

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Section 1

June 21, 1940.

CARTEL PLAN
UNDER WAY

"Plans for cartelizing the export trade of the whole Western Hemisphere by means of an Inter-American Export Corporation were approved by President Roosevelt Thursday....The first step will be the notification of Canada and the Latin-American republics. Acceptance by the Republics is considered certain... How soon Canada's acceptance might be received, however, is another matter. Some Canadians, it was believed, might be offended if anything were done now which indicated a belief that Great Britain was likely to go down under the expected German assault on her..." (New York Times, June 21.)

BRAZIL AND
BRITAIN SIGN
TRADE PACT

Great Britain will use her American investments to pay for merchandise sold her by Brazil, according to a trade agreement that goes into effect today, says an AP dispatch dated June 20.

URUGUAY MAY
SEEK U.S.
TRADE

John W. White writes, in the New York Times, June 21, that "Uruguay is preparing to ask the United States to negotiate an emergency trade treaty to relieve...(its)... present economic dependence on the totalitarian countries of Europe as part of its defense plans against Nazi penetration..."

HOUSE APPROVES
CUMMINGS BILL

"Restoring restrictions on the importations of direct consumption sugar from Hawaii and Puerto Rico, by a vote of 135 to 20, the House Thursday approved and sent to the Senate the Cummings bill extending the existing sugar control law until the end of 1941. (New York Journal of Commerce, June 21.)

NEW STAMP
PLAN TOWNS

Childress, El Paso and Abilene, Texas and Billings, Montana, with their respective counties, have been added to the list of FSCC stamp plan towns.

ASK FURTHER
EVIDENCE FOR
LARD DEFINITION

Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace announced Thursday that further comments and suggestions on the Department's proposal to issue standards defining what meat food products may be sold under the name of lard in interstate commerce will be received up to August 1, 1940. (Press Release.)

June 21, 1940.

Fresh Milk
Kept For
3 Months

"Chemists at the University of California (Davis) are suggesting that fresh bottled milk can now be used on shipboard or by campers in place of canned milk," says an item in Southern Dairy Products Journal for June.

"This theory was advanced after chemists demonstrated that by a simple process fresh milk could be kept sweet and fresh for as long as three months. According to the California scientists, the process of preservation is simply this: Pour warm paraffin over the bottle tops and fit oiled silk, parchment or waxed paper over the tops, fastening such covers with rubber bands. Keep this milk cool. If on shipboard, place in a refrigerator, or, on camping trips put in a portable refrigerator or cool stream. Shake the bottles once a day to prevent the cream from hardening at tops of the bottles. Such milk, it is pointed out, is now being served on ships outbound from San Francisco and Los Angeles."

New Tobacco
Virus in
U.S.S.R.

Abstract of an article by M. I. Goldin of the U.S.S.R., appearing in the May issue of the Review of Applied Mycology (Great Britain), says: "In the course of microscopic examination of the protein inclusions encountered in tissues of plants affected with tobacco mosaic, a method of diagnosis widely applied on one of the State farms near Moscow, the author found a virus, designated strain A, which differed from the virus of ordinary tobacco mosaic. Seedling tomato plants infected by strain A developed strikingly deformed filiform leaves, yellow mosaic symptoms appearing after one to two months. The strain caused local necroses on leaves of Nicotiana sylvestris, but no mosaic, thus differing from ordinary tobacco mosaic and resembling the aucuba mosaic virus. Furthermore, tissues of tomato plants infected with strain A showed similar intercellular inclusions to those characteristic of the aucuba mosaic virus (namely, solid, brownish, granulated or oval inclusions, long needles, and, rarely, hexagonal crystals). The strain A retained all its properties when heated at 70° C. for 25 minutes. It is concluded that this variant is a type of aucuba mosaic not previously recorded in the U.S.S.R..."

New Rice
Variety in
Louisiana

"A new variety of rice known as Zenith has given good results in three-year tests at the Rice Experiment Station at Crowley and may become one of the leading early varieties in Louisiana," says Rice News for May.

"Zenith is considered the best early variety that will be generally available within the next three or four years, according to N. E. Jodon, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, in charge of rice varietal improvement work at the Crowley station. A limited amount of seed of the variety was available this year... This new rice is a selection from Early Prolific...It is much more resistant to leaf spot diseases, however, and possesses better table quality..."

June 21, 1940.

Motion Pictures
and Ice Cream
Studies

"Studies have been made by the use of motion picture photography in showing the relation of several factors in the composition and manufacturing procedure upon the stability of vanilla ice cream," says an abstract of a paper by W. S. Arbuckle, C. W. Decker and R. J. Cooley, Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station, appearing in the Journal of Dairy Science, June. "The investigation includes the effect of variable acidity in medium and high serum solids content mixes, the effect of overrun or weight per gallon of ice cream, the different sources of serum solids and of replacing variable increments of sucrose with dextrose and cerelose in medium and low fat content mixes upon the stability and melt down properties. The pictures illustrate the effectiveness of motion pictures in presenting complete detailed information of educational and investigational value."

pH Determination
Of Alkali Soils

"pH Determination of Alkali Soils," is the title of an article by W. T. McGeorge and W. P. Martin, of the Arizona Experiment Station, appearing in the May issue of the Journal of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists. The article says in part: "With the development of knowledge of the chemical properties of alkali soils and improvement in equipment and methods for determining hydroxyl-ion concentration, a need for standardization of methods used by soil laboratories interested in these soils has arisen. Such a standardization is imperative if comparisons are to be made among the several States where alkali soils prevail. The introduction of the glass electrode has done more to make this possible than any previous development in soil technology. A report of a former associate referee, P. L. Hibbard, has shown that the antimony electrode is not dependable. Also general experience has proved that the quinhydrone electrode will not give accurate results on alkali soils and that the hydrogen electrode is dependable only when certain essential precautions are taken. The glass electrode is dependable under practically all alkaline conditions..."

Cotton Seed Waste
New Foodstuff
Source

New Agriculture, May, has an item with a Heidelberg dateline which says: "Discovery of a new source of valuable foodstuff, containing vitamins A, B, C and E, is claimed by Casper Schmitt, chemist here. The source is cotton seed waste, after the oil has been extracted. Schmitt claims to have developed a process whereby he can produce a substance which can be mixed with other foodstuffs, greatly increasing their nutritive value. The substance is tasteless and odorless. It contains more than 50 percent pure albumen. It has been introduced in Egypt, where it is mixed with coffee and cocoa, increasing their nourishing powers without affecting their flavor. It also contains aluminum salts and some phosphate."

June 21, 1940.

Butter Loans
Approved For
1940-41 Program

The Department of Agriculture Thursday announced approval of a continuing butter stabilization program for the 1940-41 May-April storage season. Under the program, the Dairy Products Marketing Association, producers' cooperative organization, will be in a position to continue butter market stabilization operations, under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture, whenever necessary during the current marketing season. The operations are made possible through a \$7,000,000 loan approved by the Commodity Credit Corporation for buying and storing up to 25,000,000 pounds of butter. (Press Release.)

Stream-Lined
Vegetables

Iowa State College experts have developed a green bean "with no strings attached," according to the Des Moines Register for June 16. Long and slender, this new snap bean makes preparation easier and eating more pleasant, says the Register.

Biochemic Unit
and Others To
Merge July 2

In conformance with the Government's efforts to bring about economies without impairing efficiency, through readjustment of various units, Dr. John R. Mohler, Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, U.S.D.A., announced Thursday the merging of the Biochemic Division of that Bureau with two other major units. Robert M. Chapin, chief of the Biochemic Division, died recently and under the new arrangement the position will not be filled. Most of the employees will be assigned to the Pathological Division and the remainder to the Animal Nutrition Division. All lines of the Biochemic Division's work will be continued under those units. The change becomes effective July 1. (Press Release.)

Food Lack May
Account for
Pig Disease

"Practically none of the barley-fed pigs in a recent experiment at Michigan State College were affected with necrotic enteritis, while a majority of the corn-fed pigs showed symptoms of the disease. This led to the belief that, in some way, the disease might be associated with a feed deficiency. Sick pigs were fed raw liver with surprisingly rapid recovery in most cases. Dried yeast proved nearly as effective as the raw liver. Results indicate that pigs are much less susceptible to the disease when nicotinic acid is either present in the feed, or used to supplement the ration." (Western Livestock Journal, June 15.)

Indoor
Turkeys
Thrive

"Dr. D. C. Kennard and V. D. Chamberlin ran tests at the Ohio Experiment Station...to compare losses of turkeys and gains in weight of birds grown on range and grown indoors. Their results favor producing turkeys in confinement. Death losses in house-reared birds were so much smaller than among those on range that the greater amount of feed required by the indoor birds was more than compensated by the greater weight of meat produced for sale." (Country Gentleman, July.)

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Section 1

June 24, 1940.

ALL 20 LATIN
AMERICAN
NATIONS ACCEPT

growing out of recent developments in Europe," according to the New York Times of June 23.

FOOD SHORTAGE
REPORTED IN
BELGIUM

in adjusting herself to a purely continental economy, according to the story.

WOOL SHORTAGE
PREDICTED FOR
LATE THIS YEAR

According to the New York Times of June 23, there may be an acute shortage of raw wool in the United States late this year, due to an appreciable expansion of the Army's purchasing program in the wool goods market.

CUMMINGS SUGAR
BILL GOES TO
SENATE

The Cummings sugar bill has been sent to the Senate Agricultural Committee for hearings, according to the New York Journal of Commerce for June 24. The bill already has passed the House.

WOULD GIVE RED
CROSS 1,000,000
BALES FOR MERCY

and has received endorsement in important Washington circles, Mr. Lamport said in New York Saturday..."(New York Times, June 23.)

NAZIS EYE U.S.
CARTEL PLAN

plans for the formation of an economic bloc of nations in the Western Hemisphere." (New York Times, June 23.)

"German economic planners upon whom devolves the duty of mapping out the economic aspects of the post-war world are viewing with interest American

June 24, 1940.

Rubber Growing "The U.S. Government has shown a sudden revival of
In Western interest in developing rubber production in the Western
Hemisphere Hemisphere," says an item in Business Week, June 1. "The
United States failed to learn its lesson last time; officials comment, but it's never too late. In time of war -- prepare for the next. With the 1925 survey still at hand, the U.S. Bureau of Plant Industry can proceed immediately to the planting of rubber for the purpose of demonstrating where new high-yield strains propagated by bud grafting, will grow best. Four experiment stations are projected in Brazil and the northern tropical countries. The Government's experts hope that the other governments concerned will make acreage available. The experts hope, too, that the big rubber companies will follow in a big way; but the important end of their own job is to get the natives started by showing them how to do it. A serious obstacle to extensive development is the South American leaf disease. Plant pathologists, however, are confident that it can be kept under control. Ford went into Brazil in 1928, has spent \$9,000,000 without getting a pound of rubber so far. He expects to bring in 12,000 tons beginning in 1942."

Standard Farm "For several months a committee representing the
Tire Size is farm tractor and implement industry and the tire industry
Desirable has been working toward the simplification of farm tire sizes," says Farm Implement News, June 13. "The first phase of this agricultural tire simplification committee's work has been completed successfully by the reduction from 214 to 128 in the number of farm tractor tire sizes required by tractor manufacturers and from 118 to 73 in the number of tire sizes required by implement manufacturers... The use of an unnecessarily large number of sizes adds appreciably to the cost of the manufacture of tires in mold depreciation, curing expense, machine changes, die costs.... Most important, perhaps, it causes inconvenience to the farmers by hampering interchangeability of wheels, by increasing obsolescence and by making it more difficult to obtain readily the exact sizes needed for replacement..."

Proposal Add "An ingenious new idea for permitting persons in the
Medical Aid low income groups to meet the costs of medical care has
Stamp Plan recently been advanced by a Baltimore physician," says an item in Modern Medicine for June. "He believes that by extending the food stamp plan, a technic could be evolved for getting available medical service to this group. Families with \$1,000 to \$2,000 a year, a maximum of \$40 a week, might be permitted to buy medical service stamps at 20 cents on the dollar up to one dollar a week. Physicians would be paid in stamps. Banks would redeem the stamps at face value from funds set aside by the state and federal government."

June 24, 1940.

Spray Tree's "Trees which promise at their present rate of growth, Chromosomes; to triple or quadruple their normal sizes, are being Triple Growth grown by the Swedish natural scientist, H. Nilsson-Ehle.

His experiments are described in the newspaper Afton-bladet. He has been experimenting with colchicine, a chemical product which when sprayed on plants change their chromosomes. The latter are tiny particles, barely visible under microscopes, said to control heredity, including size. Mr. Nilsson-Ehle is experimenting particularly with Sweden's aspen trees and larches. He wants to grow bigger ones for Swedish forests. He has doubled the chromosomes of the giant Sequoia, one of California's famous big trees," according to the Christian Science Monitor of June 14.

New Form of "Necro" "A new form of 'necro,' called 'bloody scours,' is now prevalent in corn belt swine herds," says Wallaces' Farmer and Iowa Homestead, June 15. "It is becoming one

of the most serious problems of the hog producer. The full name of this type of necro is infectious necrotic enteritis. It is characterized by a very severe diarrhea, which usually is black and tarry in appearance, due to intestinal bleeding. The affected pigs eat very little, become rough coated and gaunt in appearance. They walk in a stiff, stilted gait, with arched back. In the first few days of the attack, they may run a temperature of 103 to 106 degrees; later, however, the temperature may be below normal....."

New Milk Regulations in Ohio "New regulations for the labeling of bottled drinks made from milk have been adopted by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, it was announced recently," says The

Dairy Record, June 12. "Under the terms of the order a drink must contain 3 percent or more butterfat before it can be called a 'milk' drink. If the product contains less than 3 percent butterfat and more than 2 percent, it may be called a 'dairy drink,' but if it has less than 2 percent fat, the product may only be labeled a 'drink' and the label must carry the words 'made with skimmilk!'"

NH₄HCO₃ For Wound Healing "Ammonium Bicarbonate for Wound Healing," is the title of a short item in Modern Medicine for June. It says: "A 1 percent solution of ammonium bicarbonate, applied as a wet pack or by irrigation, effectively promotes wound healing, it has recently been reported by Dr. William Robinson of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Ammonium bicarbonate is a simpler chemical substitute for urea and allantoin, and has been used successfully in the treatment of chronic osteomyelitis, diabetic and varicose ulcers, middle-ear infections and other purulent wounds."

Argentina,
Canada Lead
Wheat Trade

Argentina and Canada have been by far the largest exporters of wheat, including flour, during July-April of the current marketing year, the office of Foreign Agricultural Relations said Saturday in its weekly publication, Foreign Crops and Markets. Of the five principal exporters of the world, available statistics indicate that the United States and Australia have shipped less wheat this season than last. (Press Release)

FSA Displays
Fabric Designs

Cotton and wool fabrics, hand-woven by Farm Security Administration white and colored home supervisors and clients' wives, are on display in the patio of the Department's Administration Building and will remain there through Saturday, June 29. The materials were woven by persons who had never before done weaving and who acquired the skill in 8 weeks' intensive training under supervision of the FSA. Many of the designs were created by the weavers.

AAA Payments At
\$219,424,368.

Total payments already disbursed and estimated to be disbursed under the 1939 Price Adjustment Program, including national and local administrative expenses, amounted to \$219,424,368 as of April 30, 1940, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration announced Friday afternoon.

Of this amount, payments to farmers including county association expenses amounted to \$216,373,200 of which approximately \$474,422 remained to be certified for payment as of April 30, 1940. (Press Release)

Feed Prices Up
Livestock Down

"The relation between feed prices and livestock prices continues unfavorable to livestock producers. The effect may well be to reverse the upward trend in livestock numbers and production of livestock products. Meanwhile, the 1940 feed crops are well along, growing conditions have improved following the late spring. The corn crop probably will be smaller this year than last, but a high record carry-over of old corn is in prospect. Feed grains continue to sell for higher prices this year than last, despite the declines following the extension of the war through the low countries." (The Agricultural Situation for June.)

New Glass
For Labs.

"The history of glass making has just reached a major milestone with the patenting of a new process for the manufacture of a high silica content glass which has been designated as '96% Silica Glass,'" says The Laboratory, Vol. 11, No. 5. "The new process is so different from the ordinary method of making glass that it is said to be the only real innovation in manufacturing technique since glass was first made about 4,000 years ago. This entirely new type of glass is superior for many laboratory uses because of its very low expansion coefficient, its higher softening point and its low solubility in chemicals...."
